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THE MILITARY SITUATION.

THE CAMPAIGN IN VIRGINIA.

THE expedition of the enemy's fleet down the James, recorded in our last, was evidently undertaken for the purpose of breaking our pontoon bridges and cutting communication between our forces on the two banks. It would doubtless have been followed, if successful, by an attack on the forces on the north side, with a view to retake Fort Harrison, and to capture or destroy the troops on that side. The time chosen was when nearly all our naval forces had gone to Wilmington. The attack of the enemy's iron-clads, on the 24th, was accompanied by a cannonading of Battery Harrison from his mortars.

The enemy's flotilla, according to our accounts, consisted of the *Virginia*, *Fredericksburgh*, and *Richmond*, iron-clads, mounting four guns each; the wooden vessels *Drewry*, *Nansemond*, and *Hampton*, of two guns each; the *Bedford*, one gun; the steamer *Torpedo*, and three torpedo boats. At about midnight, this fleet ran past Fort Brady, and began to move over the obstructions in the river. The attempt was at last discovered in the fort, and a lively cannonading went on, which ended by the enemy's dismounting a 100-pounder gun in the fort, and escaping beyond its range. The iron-clad *Onondaga*, a double-turretted Monitor, is said to have withdrawn from the scene of action; but we do not wish to pass any opinion upon this matter until the facts are ascertained. At length, as our accounts proceed, the enemy succeeded in cutting the chain in front of our obstructions beyond the lower end of Dutch Gap Canal, when the *Fredericksburgh*, under full head of steam, passed through them. The *Richmond*, *Virginia*, and *Drewry*, in attempting to follow, grounded, when the *Fredericksburgh* had to go to their assistance. The *Drewry* could not be got off, and was obliged to be abandoned, as it was now daylight, and they were in range of Battery Parsons. As soon as it became light, the battery opened on the *Drewry*, one of the shells falling in her magazine, which exploded, completely demolishing her; and the remainder of the fleet again made their way back up the river. The loss by the *Drewry* was reported at three, and four deserters swam to our lines from the fleet. The enemy puts his total loss at five killed and fourteen wounded; ours were about the same. The enemy's account is as follows:

The flagship of the expedition was the *Virginia*, commanded by Lieutenant DOWNINGTON. The *Richmond* was commanded by Lieutenant BELL, who was First Lieutenant on the *Alabama* at the time of her fight with the *Kearsarge*. The *Fredericksburgh* was commanded by Lieutenant SHEPPARD. The latter vessel being of light draught passed clean through the obstruction, but the others found a lower tier of obstructions deeply submerged, and which had not been moved by the freshet; the depth of water over them being impassable by vessels of their draught. The *Virginia* received a shot in the centre by a three hundred pounder Parrott shell, fired from a Yankee Monitor, being struck while trying to get off sunken obstructions in the river. The shot displaced a few of her bolts, and killed five of her crew. No other damage was done, but it was found that her engines were fouled, not in consequence of the shot, and that she was not in fighting order; in the meantime the fire of

our vessels had completely silenced the Yankee shore batteries, and a number of shots were exchanged with the Monitor, with what effect is not known. In consequence of the condition of the *Virginia's* engine, it was decided, on a consultation of the officers of the flotilla, to withdraw all vessels, which was done without further casualty. It had been impossible to survey the channel to any great extent on account of the enemy's picket fire, and the submerged obstructions of the river were found to be more effectual than they were supposed to be.

Throughout the day, the enemy's batteries on the James shelled ours furiously. Soon after midnight, the firing was resumed, and continued till daylight of the 25th, the enemy's iron-clads then repassing Fort Brady up the river. Great dissatisfaction is expressed at the conduct of the *Onondaga*, whose commander is said to have been relieved. Had not the *Richmond* grounded, our entire fleet of transports might have been destroyed, our base temporarily broken up at City Point, and immense destruction caused.

On Friday, the 27th, there was another execution for desertion in front of Petersburg. There has been the usual desultory picket firing in front of the Ninth corps. The enemy reports a raiding column of between 6,000 and 10,000 men advancing up the Chowan River towards Weldon. He also says that some of Colonel PALMER's scouts encountered KIRK, with 300 or 400 men, near the Chunky River, a few days since, and a skirmish followed, in which the scouts had three or four wounded. Being largely outnumbered, the scouts fell back. Colonel PALMER, with a sufficient force, had gone up into that section.

From Fort Fisher, there is little of importance. HOKE's division of LEE's troops opposes our advance on Wilmington. The enemy admits his loss to be nearly 3,000 in all, in the capture of Fort Fisher. Our official figures for the loss in the assault are:

	Killed		Wounded		Missing	
	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.
Curtis' brigade.....	2	35	15	166	9	7
Pennypacker's brigade.....	2	24	15	183	9	2
Bell's brigade.....	2	15	4	105	—	—
Abbott's brigade.....	—	3	2	18	—	11
Total.....	11	77	39	472	92	691

To these must be added the loss in the fleet, 309 men, making a round 1,000 in all. Unhappily, we lost 200 or 300 men in the explosion, the day after the assault.

Peace propositions are the great talk of the hour on the Petersburg lines. An interesting story from Petersburg says that, when Messrs. STEPHENS, HUNTER, and CAMPBELL passed through their lines, on their way to Washington, shouting all along the lines was prevailing, and it would indicate that they hoped for preparation for such terms of peace as would allow the Armies to disperse. A fine military band played "Secessia," "Yankee Doodle," "Dixie," and other tunes and national airs. They were acknowledged by the two Armies alternately; but when the band struck up "Home, Sweet Home," the opposing camps forgot their positions and united in vociferous cheering.

SHERMAN'S DEPARTMENT.

The advance of SHERMAN's column in the South Carolina campaign, has now reached Salkehatchie and occupied that point. At this position McLAWS halted on his retreat from Pocotaligo Bridge. Its occupation, therefore, marks distinctly two steps of progress in the campaign. The distance from Pocotaligo to Branchville is about forty-five miles, or three days' march. We conjecture that the late rains in that vicinity may have had much to do in preventing the immediate location of a part of SHERMAN's force between Branchville and Charleston. As it is, we have firm possession of Salkehatchie, the Seventeenth corps, our advance, holding that point. This second

step in the campaign has brought us ten miles nearer Charleston. The enemy is probably posted at Jacksonboro' and Logansville, with a strong force thrown out to Ashepoo, on the railroad line, thirty miles southwest of Charleston. COLCOCK's cavalry, at least, are probably at the latter point. The occupation of Branchville by us makes the capture of Charleston almost a matter of certainty. "There," says a Richmond paper, "SHERMAN's flanks would be protected by the Edisto and its swamps, on the left, and by the Santee and its swamps on the right, whilst his base at Charleston would be unassailable either by land or water." It adds that the retention of the military line from Kingsville to Augusta is indispensable to the success of the Confederate cause. It should be remembered that a portion of the fleet lately with Admiral PORTER, has already arrived in Charleston harbor. The Twentieth and Fourteenth corps are, as we have before intimated, on the march from Savannah, and GEARY's division has rejoined the former, GEARY turning over his provost duties to GROVER, who arrived on the 18th, with a part of the Nineteenth corps from SHERIDAN's command in the Shenandoah Valley.

General D. H. HILL has assumed command of the Confederate forces in Georgia, under HARDEE, and has already issued an order to the people of Augusta, where his headquarters are, to burn their cotton on the approach of SHERMAN. It is very clear that LEE, with strong confidence in his ability to repulse GRANT, has greatly weakened his Army by sending detachments into South Carolina. The troops from the latter State, especially, have been sent to its defence. Probably SHERMAN will find strong earthworks thrown up in the neighborhood of Kingsville and Wateree, where the railroad from Florence crosses the Santee, should he penetrate so high in that direction. While LEE has succeeded in reinforcing the positions in South Carolina, it is pleasant to know that many troops are leaving Tennessee to reinforce SHERMAN. They will be used effectively and well. All the troops that can be sent to him may be confidently trusted in his hands, as may the whole cause in South Carolina.

Transports ascend Broad River to within five miles of Patacoligo. Wharves are in process of construction at the point of debarkation on Broad River, and the indications are that this will be a base for the new movement. January 17 is now assigned as the day when the march was formally commenced. Augusta, Branchville, and Charleston are all threatened, and, in spite of the reported withdrawal of a full corps from LEE's Army to South Carolina, the enemy cannot cover all the menaced points. Branchville is likely not to be assaulted, but to be flanked, as the popular phrase goes, or surrounded in such a way as to compel its evacuation. Our reports assert that SHERMAN is moving in three columns, the main column going toward Charleston, taking with it nearly all his transportation. The other two columns are in light marching order, and are moving by separate roads toward Branchville. General HILL has issued orders requiring all-combatants to leave Augusta.

A late dispatch from Charleston says that our infantry are encamped near Eames Cross-roads, on the road to Grahamsville, on the road towards Sister's Ferry. They have wagon trains with them. A reconnaissance in force was reported within four miles of Robertsville on the 29th. Robertsville is fifty miles north of Savannah, and five miles east of the Savannah River. A small party landed on Little

Point Island, near Legree, on Saturday night, and were driven off. Our gunboat *Dai Ching* got aground in the Combahee lately. The enemy's batteries opened on her and set her on fire. She burned to the water's edge. All the crew except a lieutenant and five men escaped.

General THOMAS still continues to "command the Department of the Mississippi in the absence of General SHERMAN." His main Army is at Eastport, and he himself temporarily at Nashville. Deserters, averaging from 30 to 50 a day, are coming in from Hood's Army, the proportion being even twice as great as that in Virginia. The effect of this silent depletion of the Confederate ranks will soon be felt. The enemy says BEAUREGARD has taken command of HOOD's Army, and is about to move. On the 16th, General CROXTON, with a division of the 16th corps, and the First brigade, First division of cavalry, reconnoitered from Eastport towards Corinth, passing through Iuka and Brownsville. It was found that HOOD has a small force holding Corinth, while his main body is at Tupelo. Thirty-five of the enemy were captured, and the depot and a hotel burned at Corinth. It is said that the well-known cavalry leader, General RODDY, has abandoned the Rebel cause, and has been pardoned by the PRESIDENT.

Guerrilla bands are active in Kentucky, near the towns of Danville, Harrodsburgh, Elizabethtown, Bardstown and Bloomfield, and some sharp skirmishing with them has taken place. General PRICE is still alive, collecting his forces in Arkansas.

Now that SHERMAN's unparalleled campaign is closed, it is seen to be a rapid, dazzling and terrible defeat of the most promising and dangerous offensive campaign ever undertaken by the Confederacy. It was a campaign devised not only in Georgia, but in Virginia also, and had the sanction of DAVIS himself, as an able editorial of a New York contemporary states:

It is very easy to revile him now for the blunder he has made in sending HOOD toward SHERMAN's rear, and leaving the road through Georgia open to the invader. But we venture to assert that there was not a single General in the Confederacy, nor is there one in Europe, who would have imagined under the circumstance, that SHERMAN would do what he has done, and, therefore, have taken precautions against it. The march to Savannah which has no precedent in the history of warfare, and the inference it suggests, is not that DAVIS is a great fool, but that SHERMAN is what an English journal recently pronounced him, "the greatest of living Captains." The passage of the great St. Bernard by NAPOLEON proved not the stupidity or incapacity of MELAS, but the skill and audacity of his adversary.

Our own belief is that SHERMAN's great campaign will be found to have cut the gordian knot of the war. By widely dividing his Army, and then whipping his adversary's entire force with one half, he has put us one army ahead of the enemy—a fatal superiority of pieces on the board of war. So soon as that terrible discovery was made known to the Southern people, the cry for terms began to burst forth. It was a splendid stroke, whose influence, we prophecy, will yet come to be felt as the masterpiece, hitherto, of the war.

An ambulance, embracing some new features, the invention of Mr. E. R. McKean, of Washington, D. C., has been built by order of the War Department, with a view to testing the advantages which are claimed for it over those now in use. Its chief novelty consists of a false bottom hung on rubber springs for supporting the stretcher, which, with the false bottom, are provided with rollers, so that the stretcher, after the wounded soldier is placed upon it, may be easily pushed or rolled into its place in the ambulance. By the construction of these two parts, no accidental starting of the horses during the operation of placing the wounded in the ambulance, or other causes, can throw the stretcher from its seat. The false bottom is also of such construction that, by removing the stretcher, the ambulance may be made to carry eight or ten persons able to sit. The improvements do not require new ambulances to be built, but may be put, at a small cost, upon those now in use.

REAR-Admiral D'HERBINGHEM, second in command of the French squadron of evolutions, has just hauled down his flag, his term of service having expired. His vessel, the *Algeiras*, is to be disarmed, and replaced by the iron-plated *Provence*, which frigate is completing her trials. Two other wooden vessels, the *Redoubtable* and *Castiglione*, are also to make way for their metalized sisters, *Couronne* and *Normandie*; to this squadron the *Magenta* will soon be added, as well as the *Sarcis*, a new frigate, which will probably be ready for sea some time in May. The squadron of evolutions will in future be entirely composed of iron-clads, and this will allow of a considerable reduction in the personnel, as these vessels require less numerous crews than wooden steamers.

REPORT ON RIFLED GUNS.

LETTER OF INSTRUCTIONS.

BUREAU OF ORDNANCE,
NAVY DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON CITY, 4th January, 1865.

SIR:—You are hereby appointed a Board to consider and report upon the subject of Rifle Cannon for the Navy.

In consequence of the unfortunate failure of a number of the Parrott guns in the recent operations near Wilmington—the report of which will be submitted to you—and the loss of life attendant thereon, the confidence of the service has been seriously shaken in the guns of this manufacture; and some change or modification of the system is thus rendered necessary.

You will, therefore, investigate, as fully as possible, the causes of the failure of the Parrott guns in service generally, and state whether, in your judgment, they are still worthy of confidence, and should be continued as the Rifle Guns of the Navy; or whether they shall be abandoned and some other gun substituted.

If you should decide upon retaining the Parrott system, you will state whether the present calibre shall still be used; and if not, what calibre shall be rejected; also, whether it be advisable to reduce the charge and weight of projectiles for the several classes of the guns you may propose.

If, however, you decide to abandon the Parrott system entirely you will then designate either a new rifled gun or a new mode of manufacturing rifled guns, which in your opinion will be the safest and best for the Naval Service, keeping in view the question of economy in manufacture relatively with the results anticipated from the change.

Having thus decided upon a rifled gun, or a mode of manufacturing them, you will state in what proportion they shall be placed in the batteries of our ships.

A full record of your proceedings must be kept, and a detailed report made to this Bureau of the results of your deliberations; to aid you in which the files of this office are placed at your disposal.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed)

H. A. WISE,

Chief of Bureau.

Commodore J. Z. MISSROON, U. S. Navy.

Commodore R. B. HITCHCOCK, U. S. Navy.

Commodore T. A. HUNT, U. S. Navy.

Lieutenant-Commander R. AULICK, U. S. Navy.

Lieutenant-Commander W. N. JEFFERS, U. S. Navy.

THE REPORT.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, Jan. 18, 1865.

COMMODORE H. A. WISE,

Chief of Bureau of Ordnance:

SIR:—In accordance with your order of the 4th instant, we have carefully considered the points therein submitted for investigation, and have the honor to report as follows:

We find that (703) seven hundred and three Parrott guns of all calibres have been issued to the Naval service, (as shown in Table A), and that of this number (21) twenty-one have burst or been otherwise injured by explosion.

Several of the injuries have appeared in fractures or rents, enabling the withdrawal of the guns from service in time to avoid casualties, and many of them have occurred in the chase or at the muzzle, and not, as is customary with other guns, at the breech; thus affording evidence that they arose from the premature explosion of shells within the guns—a fact which is proven by the direct testimony of several officers in charge at the time.

Such premature explosions of shells within rifle guns have frequently occurred without apparently injuring the guns, while in other cases causing their instant rupture. But although the guns were apparently not injured, there is no proof that they were not really so, and much presumptive evidence that they were; for, although we find by the records that many premature explosions of shells have been reported to the Bureau at different times, by which the gun was not apparently injured, yet on no occasion has it seemed to occur to the officer so reporting that an examination of the gun itself was necessary to determine what effect had been produced by such premature explosions.

Thirty-three (33) premature explosions in (112) one hundred and twelve rounds have been reported in target practice with guns of all calibres, and not one word said of any examination of the guns.

There is, however, one instance that occurred, in the proof of a 100-pounder at Cold Spring, which is conclusive on this point.

At the second fire of this gun a shell exploded prematurely, and the gun showed no apparent injury, and stood the ten proof rounds without bursting; but a subsequent examination showed it to be seriously cracked in the bore, and it was rejected.

Brigadier-General TURNER, Chief of Artillery in the Department of the South, during the operations against Charleston, states (see General GILLMORE's Report, p. 155) that "a most serious matter was the premature explosions of shells, of which so many have occurred in our firing. The shock produced by an explosion of a shell within a gun cannot but tend rapidly to destroy it; indeed, in instances which have come under my personal observation, I am confident it was the direct and immediate cause. In one instance of the bursting of a 100-pounder where the breech had been blown from the reinforce, I found the base of the shell in the gun. The shell had prematurely exploded, leaving the base in the gun; it had taken the grooves and was left perpendicular to the axis of the piece, and some inches in the rear of its first position, showing that the last force acting upon it was from the explosion of the powder in the shell."

The same report says, page 139, that "the frequent instance of premature explosions which occurred with shells (from the Whitworth guns) made it necessary to abandon the use of shells entirely."

The records show that this subject of the frequent premature explosions of shells in the rifled guns has been fully appreciated by the Bureau, and that experiments for the purpose of obviating it, by coating the interior surface of the shells, have been made for more than a year past.

These experiments show that as the coating became more

and more perfect, the premature explosions of the shells decreased, until they ceased entirely.

Seven hundred (700) rounds having been fired without a single instance of such explosion of the shells, or injury to the guns.

This result has only been obtained within the last few weeks, and consequently is not known to the service generally; nor were the shell which have heretofore been issued for service coated inside, because until now no substance was found for coating them which seemed to fill all the required conditions, though some few have been partially protected.*

As these experiments may not, however, be considered sufficiently extended to be conclusive, and as the premature explosion of shells is shown to be certainly one cause of the failure of the Parrott guns, and is, in the opinion of the inventor, the principal one, we think that this subject should be so fully tested as to place the question of this cause of bursting of those guns beyond dispute; and also whether it be possible to obviate it entirely or not.

We, therefore, recommend, that a series of experiments be at once instituted at Cold Spring (or such other point as the Bureau may designate), to be conducted in the following manner:

Three guns—say 100-pounders of exactly the same character in every respect, that is, made of the same iron, melted at the same time and in the same manner, and cast all at once from the same pool—should be placed side by side and fired 1,000 rounds each with service charges of powder and shells of the same description and weight, the shells from one gun to be unloaded (but brought up to weight by filling them with sand or some other non-explosive material), then those from the second gun to be loaded and fired, but not coated on the interior; and those from the third gun to be coated on the interior with the new composition, and loaded and fired exactly as those from No. 2. In every other respect the conditions of firing should be exactly the same, including for a certain number of rounds rapidity of firing.†

It is believed that these experiments will fully test both guns and projectiles under all the circumstances that are like to occur.

We are of the opinion that from the result of these experiments it should be decided whether the Parrott guns are to be retained or withdrawn from service; for, after a minute and careful investigation of all the information we have been able to obtain, as well as from the records of the Bureau, the testimony of Mr. PARROTT (see paper marked D), and our own personal experience, we find it impossible to decide at present.

Pending this decision, we considered it proper to recommend to the Bureau (see letter Jan. 11th, marked E) that a general circular should be issued, directing certain reductions of the charge of 100-pounders, and other precautionary measures to be taken, by which it is hoped that serious accidents may be hereafter obviated.

That these guns have in some instances been injured by other causes than the premature explosions of shells, such as the use of compressed powder, projectiles deemed by Mr. PARROTT unsuitable for guns of his construction, by keeping guns loaded for a great length of time, and also by neglect in the heat of battle to lubricate the projectiles as required by the Ordnance Instructions—a most necessary and important precaution, having for its object not only the free movement of the projectile, but particularly as a means of neutralizing the tenacious deposit from the powder, which is admitted in some cases to have been done; there seems little doubt but they are exceptional cases.

The compressed powder used at one time in the Parrott guns was authorized by the Bureau on the recommendation of Mr. Parrott and the ordnance officer stationed at his foundry; but, having proved injurious, its use has been discontinued.

That premature explosion of shells will burst rifle guns of wrought-iron as well as those of cast-iron, is shown by an instance stated in the English *Army and Navy Gazette* of December 24, 1864, to have recently occurred in England in the trial of an Armstrong gun.

Table B, appended hereto, shows the extreme endurance of Parrott guns in proof and in service, as far as we have been able to obtain it. The reports of service are, however, by no means full, and some reports date more than a year back. It may be assumed, therefore, that many guns stood more firing than is shown by the table.

Table C shows the number, manner and cause of failure, of these guns in service, as far as reported. In this case also it should be remarked that the reports are very incomplete, and in some instances give no data on which to found an opinion as to the cause of failure.

In consideration of the endurance exhibited by the Parrott rifle guns in proof and in service, we deem it proper to state that, in our opinion, the Bureau was fully justified in adopting them for the Naval service, as the best guns to be obtained to meet its immediate wants—various other systems of cast-iron rifled ordnance having either failed or been withdrawn from service as unreliable.

We, therefore, in the belief that the guns of this description which have burst or failed, may have been affected by one or more of the causes heretofore enumerated, especially the explosion of shells within them at the time of bursting, or previously, recommend the retention of all classes of those guns, except the 150-pounders, until the experiments herein recommended shall have been made.

We would also suggest the immediate withdrawal of such of the Parrott guns as may have been subjected to any of the deteriorating causes indicated above; and that they be issued to vessels of the Navy only as chase guns, not to exceed two for large and one for small vessels, exclusive of rifled howitzers.

With respect to wrought-iron cannon, all the official in-

*Extract from letter of Lieutenant-Commander TEMPLE, steamer *Pompeus*, January 7, 1865, engaged in the bombardment of Fort Fisher, Dec. 25th and 26th: "I have taken care to provide myself entirely with asphaltum-lined shells; and although every other vessel about us had repeated premature explosions, we had not a single one."

†Some of the 150-pounders and 100-pounders recently made have been cast hollow on the Rodman plan, but very few—five 100-pounders—have been issued to the service. As, therefore, the great majority of these guns in service were cast solid, we are of opinion this experiment should be made with solid cast guns, as more fully representing the guns now in service.

formation to which we have access, show that the results in large calibres have not been favorable to their endurance, and in many cases they have shown less strength than cast-iron guns. Instance the original gun of the *Princeton*, the "Oregon," which cracked, and the second gun, the "Peacemaker," which burst explosively, causing great damage.

The 13-inch gun, made within the past year by Mr. ERICSSON, has been able to sustain but a very limited number of rounds.

An 80-pounder, constructed in the Washington Navy Yard, also a gun of the same calibre made by Messrs. SEYBERT, McMANUS & Co., at Reading, showed decided flaws before proof.

Several wrought-iron cannon of the manufacture of Mr. HORATIO AMES, have been subjected to trial; one, of the calibre of a 50-pounder, enduring 1,600 rounds; and, although showing deep fissures at the bottom of the bore, yet might still endure an indefinite number of rounds, the experiments having been suspended on account of excessive enlargement of the vent.

A cast-iron 50-pounder of the same model endured 2,000 rounds. These calibres have sufficient endurance in cast-iron or the banded guns of Mr. PARROTT.

The semi-steel guns of Mr. NORMAN WIARD, of the calibre of 50-pounders, were experimented upon; but the very limited and unequal endurance of these guns—one bursting after nine rounds—caused the abandonment of experiments in this direction.

Nor have the published official and semi-official accounts of the endurance of foreign rifled ordnance of heavy calibres, always been so satisfactory as to lead us to recommend the entire adoption of the wrought-iron, or any other system, to the exclusion of the banded cast-iron. The Armstrong 10-inch 5, and other heavy calibres of various makers, have endured but a limited number of rounds, and then the former burst explosively by blowing out the breech.

A Whitworth 70-pounder rifle gun, now at the Ordnance yard, has commenced to unscrew at the breech, and the trunnion band is badly cracked, after 32 rounds. Two others captured in a blockade-runner and placed in battery on Morris Island, were disabled after a hundred and ten fires. Even the 110-pounder Armstrong does not appear to be exempt from serious defects as a Naval gun, as the rupture of a shell in the bore of one, appears to be capable of destroying the gun (vide *Army and Navy Gazette*, December 24, 1864).

The Ames gun, lately submitted to proof before a joint commission of the Army and Navy—a member of this Board being also a member of that commission—has shown great strength and endurance, although fissures were developed at an early stage of firing; but in its present shape it is of too small a calibre and unsuitable form and weight for any service in any class of vessels in the Navy. But as the inventor does not claim any peculiarity of form, but only in the mode of manufacture, and asserts his ability to make guns in any form, we recommend that a gun be designated by the Bureau, of suitable calibre, form and weight, for the turreted vessels, and submitted to proof, and that the 150-pounders in those vessels be immediately withdrawn, as the effect of an explosion in vessels of that class could not fail to be most disastrous.

Until the opinions herein expressed have been verified by the experiments which we recommend, we do not feel prepared to make a final decision upon the questions submitted to us; and we therefore respectfully suggest that further consideration of them be, for the present, suspended.

According to the requirement of your order, we have kept a daily record of our proceedings, a copy of which with other papers relating thereto, is hereto appended.

We are, sir, very respectfully, your obt. servants,
(Signed) J. S. MISSISSOON, Commodore, U. S. N.
R. B. HITCHCOCK, " "
T. A. HUNT, " "
R. A. LICK, " "
WM. N. JEFFERS, " "

APPENDICES.

A.

TABLE OF PARROTT RIFLED GUNS NOW IN USE IN THE NAVY, JANUARY 1st, 1865.

Calibre.	Number issued for service.	Number failed.	Mode of Failure.				Known to be cracked by premature explosion of shells.
			Cracked or burst through breech.	Cracked or burst through band.	Cracked or burst between band and muzzle.	Cracked or burst at muzzle.	
100-pdr.	85	2	..	..	..	2	4
100	179	14	2	4	1	5	4
80	302	9	..	..	..	..	1
29	302	3	..	2	..	1	1
29	181	2	..	..	1	1	2
Total	783	21	2	6	2	9	9

*No data of the bursting of two of these guns. Besides the five 100 pounders reported to have burst in the attack on Fort Fisher, unofficial information has been received that 13 other guns of different calibres were so injured as to be unserviceable, but no details of any kind are known, upon which to form an opinion of the cause or character of the injuries.

B.

EXTREME ENDURANCE OF PARROTT GUNS IN PROOF AND SERVICE.

Calibre.	10-inch.	8-inch.	100-pdr.	80-pdr.	30-pdr.	20-pdr.	10-pdr.	Where used.
Proof firing. Subsequent. In service.	1200*	1400*	1200*	1150*	465*		300	Foundry.
"	1200*	1400*	1200*	1150*	465*		300	Morris Island.
"	1200*	1400*	1200*	1150*	465*		300	Naval Battery.
"	1200*	1400*	1200*	1150*	465*		300	Morris Island.
"	1200*	1400*	1200*	1150*	465*		300	Monitor Turret.
"	1200*	1400*	1200*	1150*	465*		300	U. S. S. Genesee.
"	1200*	1400*	1200*	1150*	465*		300	U. S. S. Ottawa.
"	1200*	1400*	1200*	1150*	465*		300	U. S. S. Monongahela.
"	1200*	1400*	1200*	1150*	465*		300	Morris Island.
"	1200*	1400*	1200*	1150*	465*		300	U. S. S. Southfield.
"	1200*	1400*	1200*	1150*	465*		300	U. S. S. Pawnee.
"	1200*	1400*	1200*	1150*	465*		300	U. S. S. Octorara.
"	1200*	1400*	1200*	1150*	465*		300	U. S. S. Blackhawk.
"	1200*	1400*	1200*	1150*	465*		300	U. S. S. Granite.
"	1200*	1400*	1200*	1150*	465*		300	U. S. S. Estrella.
"	1200*	1400*	1200*	1150*	465*		300	Vicksburg.
"	1200*	1400*	1200*	1150*	465*		300	U. S. S. Niphon.
"	1200*	1400*	1200*	1150*	465*		300	U. S. S. Orisco.

* Burst in service.
† With Hotchkiss & Schenck shell of 300 lbs.

Calibre.	10-inch.	8-inch.	100-pdr.	80-pdr.	30-pdr.	20-pdr.	10-pdr.	Where used.
Proof firing. Subsequent. In service.	1200*	1400*	1200*	1150*	465*		300	Foundry.
"	1200*	1400*	1200*	1150*	465*		300	Morris Island.
"	1200*	1400*	1200*	1150*	465*		300	Naval Battery.
"	1200*	1400*	1200*	1150*	465*		300	Morris Island.
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QUESTIONS ASKED MR. R. P. PARROTT, WITH HIS ANSWERS THEREON.

Q. 1. How do you know in banding your guns that the band may not be shrunk on too tight—or, in other words, that the shrinkage may not be so great as to compress the cast-iron beneath it, thus changing its structure by upsetting or displacing the crystals, and consequently diminishing or destroying its strength?

A. In my opinion it is not sufficient to do so. Every gun is turned, and band bored to the same gauge, that is, the difference between the diameter of the band and gun, cold, before band is put on, is always equal to one-sixteenth of an inch to the foot.

Q. 2. Has it not actually occurred in practice at the foundry that the band has been shrunk on too tight?

A. No. In the first 30-pounder, in putting on the band the bore was found to be reduced about 0.01. A similar result was also found with a 100-pounder gun. On this account I prefer to do the finishing out and rifling of the bore after banding the gun. I have, however, finished bores entirely before banding; as was the case with all the old army guns banded for experimental purposes.

Q. 3. If it should occur, will it not in your opinion be sufficient to account for the blowing out of the breech of so many of your guns?

A. If too much compressed it might damage the gun; but I do not think that a band of the thickness we use could be put on with sufficient force to do so. I think that if any excess in shrinkage exists the band would adjust itself. It is always put on at a uniform heat—what is called "red-in-the-dark."

I do not think that in any case the bands have been put on so as to weaken the guns. The band is intended to guard against longitudinal splitting, which is the manner in which guns usually fail; and of course if this is prevented the gun falls in the next weakest place.

We banded a lot of old army guns, and all the banded guns stood well, whilst several of the unbanded ones failed.

Q. 4. Have you any experimental results relative to the amount or difference of shrinkage in similar bands? Have you any means of securing uniformity?

A. I have no experimental results to determine shrinkage beyond daily practice in making guns. They are all prepared with a uniform difference of one-sixteenth of an inch to the foot. This difference is absorbed partly by the extension of the band and partly by compression of the cast-iron. The band would be of no use if its effect was not felt at the bore.

Q. 5. Would any modification of the form of the band, or method of putting it on, make it more uniform in its action or give it greater strength?

A. I do not think it would be well to change the form of the band. Of course a longer and heavier band would be stronger; but I do not think the difficulties lie in that direction. I should be unwilling to depend on the band for giving longitudinal strength. It has not much strength in that direction. Bands shrink more in the centre than at the ends, and consequently there can be no "nip" at those places.

I do not think that there would be any difficulty in lengthening the forward part of the band a little; but I think it would do little or no good in obviating the accidents in that part which are caused by the explosion of shells.

I think it would be a confession of weakness in that direction, which does not exist.

Q. 6. Have you ever tried to band one of your guns cold—that is, by simple pressure, hydrostatic, or otherwise?

A. I have never tried banding cold, because I do not think it so good and certain as banding hot. It is fully practicable, but the abrasion of the iron if the band were forced on with the same tension as I obtain by putting it on hot would deprive it of the expected accuracy.

Q. 7. What is your opinion of the premature explosion of shells and its effect on the gun?

A. In rifle cannon there are many new elements and things to learn which have not yet been solved by direct experiment. I think that the premature explosion of shells is the great cause, if not almost the only cause, of the bursting of these guns.

Band or dirt would wedge the shell in the gun, the windage being so small, which I have no doubt caused a few guns to burst at Morris Island.

Q. 8. What security have you that the shells are not frequently cracked in the gun by the shock of the discharge independently of any premature explosion of the powder in the shells? Have you unloaded shells ever been broken in the guns?

A. I have no evidence that the shells want strength, after the experience of many thousand fires, to stand the direct shock of the discharge. No unloaded shells, so far as I recollect, have ever broken in the guns. A great many unfired shells have been fired and none broken in the gun. One hollow shot did break; but in these projectiles the cavity is in the rear end, and the base not quite so strong as that of the shells.

Bands of shells sometimes fly off or break, but I do not think that this endangers the gun.

I think that imperfect fuses may have sometimes caused accidents, but I have no knowledge that the spelter rings have ever failed; though as first made, they might have been a source of accident by flame getting down alongside the thread of fuse hole into the shell.

I have never known, after hundreds of fires, a fuse of any kind to be driven into the shell.

Q. 9. What advantage do you expect to derive by an increasing twist in the rifling over the regular or uniform twist? Is there any danger of wrenching off the muzzle by the "nip" the projectile receives at that point?

A. The principal advantages to be gained by the increasing twist are that the projectile takes the grooves more readily, that a higher rotation may be more easily obtained, and a stronger band used with the projectile. Bands of hard metal take the grooves fairly, which they would not do so well with a regular twist. If the groove is straight the band enters it directly, but if curved it has a tendency to ride over the grooves before complete expansion.

No gun has ever broken at the muzzle except by the premature explosion of a shell, within my knowledge.

Q. 10. Could the weight of the projectile and the charge of powder for the 100-pounder be reduced, say to eighty pounds for the former and eight pounds for the latter without materially diminishing the efficiency of the guns, and would not such reductions increase materially the endurance of the gun?

A. The "short shell" is a good projectile, and its use would not materially diminish the efficiency of the gun, while the endurance would certainly be increased by such reductions.

The heavy shell and ten pound charge give greater power, of course, and in cases where very long range and great shell-power are required it may be necessary to use them, and they were designed for such purposes.

Q. 11. Are Parrott rifle shells cast with a hole in the base for the purpose of more readily cleaning them? If so, by what means is the hole plugged or closed?

A. The Parrott shells, above 60-pounders, are now cast with a hole in the base for steadying and centering the core in the flask. This hole affords facility for cleaning them, and is filled by a rivet having a head which effectually prevents them being driven into the shell. No instance of it having been driven in, in many hundred recovered after having been fired.

Q. 12. May not premature explosions be caused by the crushing of shells in the bores of rifled guns, when the shells are porous?

A. I do not believe that premature explosions occur by the crushing of my shells within the bores. By the mode of casting them with the base downwards, the liability to have porous metal at the base is removed. There is a solitary instance known to me of crushing a projectile within a gun (a hollow shot) in many thousands that have been fired.

Q. 13. May not the imperfect adjustment of the fuse, the weakness of the spelter rings or the imperfect manufacture of the time-fuse, be another cause of premature explosion?

A. I think that the original spelter ring (cast) did admit the probability of the gas entering the shell and exploding it, but those now made by being cut, and having a "shoulder" removes that probability.

Imperfect fuses or imperfect adjustments of fuses would of course be liable to admit gases into a shell, but not more so in the Parrott than in any other shell.

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R. P. PARROTT.

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I would respectfully submit to the Board the following remarks as due to the importance of the subject and to my own position.

R. P. PARROTT.

WASHINGTON, January 16, 1865.

I am unable to find in revising my correspondence that I have failed to express on all proper occasions my opinion that most of the accidents to my guns have resulted from premature explosions of loaded shells taking place within the bore, although I believe that the sand blown, or otherwise accidentally carried into the guns, was an operating cause of bursting at some of the positions on Morris Island.

But I do find that I have failed to give as decided an expression to my views as the importance of the subject required. The partial success of the trials made experimentally at this place to prevent premature explosions of shells, and the prospect that more carefully efficacious would soon be found, have induced me to look upon the difficulty as one which would shortly be remedied; and, indeed, I can say that it has been by the precautions now taken in firing loaded shells, which consist in lining the interior with a substance effectually covering the rough surface of the iron.

The great danger connected with these premature explosions, is the injury which the gun may suffer from a single one, not probably fatal at the instant, but leaving the gun impaired and causing its destruction under subsequent firing. Thus doubt and distrust are thrown upon the character of the guns, which burst without any cause assignable at the time of failure. I do not suppose that one or many shells could not explode in the bore of rifled cannon, without serious danger to the gun, but have no doubt that it might be destroyed by a single explosion of a shell; and fear that irreparable damage would be caused by some one out of not a very large number of such accidental explosions.

I must say that the apprehensions I have expressed on this subject have been received with not a little doubt; and that I found most persons skeptical in regard to the causes of the explosion of shells in the bores of rifle cannon, and some as to the danger of such explosions from whatever cause.

In referring the premature explosions of rifle shells to the friction or attrition to the powder contained in them; I do not of course deny that such explosions may sometimes be the result of defects of

the shells, or of the fuses; but I do say that with ordinary care taken in respect to the inspection and other points, few if any of my shells will explode prematurely, except by the friction of the powder within, and that if the interior surface of the shell is effectually covered these explosions will cease.

What I state has been derived from actual trial, and is substantiated by facts officially noted in the proof and inspection of rifle guns.

It has often been asked why should the rifle shell explode prematurely more frequently than the spherical? It may be answered that if the rifle shell is charged with only the same quantity of powder as suffices to fill the spherical of the same calibre, explosions will rarely if ever take place. But as the rifle shells hold from three to four times as much powder as the spherical, the greater weight of powder, and that in a long column, must by its reaction on the firing of the gun press with much greater force, and by friction either on the bottom or along the sides of the cavity of the shell (if left rough as cast) cause an explosion.

Such being the facts in respect to the explosions of rifle shells and the means of preventing them, are they the causes of the unequal endurance and unlooked for bursting of the guns?

I am unable to trace any connection between the bursting of guns and the time of manufacture. The difficulties of procuring supplies of material and of labor, have been unexampled within my experience, but I am not aware of any deterioration in the work, and feel confident that there has been none which can possibly account for the failure of guns, though the supposed necessity for assigning some cause such as would be applicable to ordinary cannon has led to the supposition that a gun which fails must have been bad from the beginning.

It would be as unjust to expect me to foresee all the difficulties which may arise in the use of a system of ordnance so new as that of rifle cannon, as it would be presumptions on my part to pretend to do it. I cannot think, however, that the merits which mine have exhibited are merely accidental, but believe that from the uniformity of plan and the results, with the extreme sizes that no intermediate class can be wrong in principle. I know of no possible cause other than the explosion of the shells which would account for the bursting of my guns near the muzzle. It has been known to happen the very first round fired from the gun, after a very few, after some hundreds, and in the two 10-inch guns, destroyed in this way, one after twenty-seven and the other after one thousand and four fires in actual service. In a very few instances it has happened with the 30-pounder guns after quite moderate use, and in one it did not take place up to four thousand six hundred and fifteen fires.

Again as to those peculiar modes of bursting by which portions of the cast-iron are blown off forward of the wrought-iron reinforce or near the trunnions, often leaving all the rest of the gun still connected together, how can it be supposed that these accidents occurring after very irregular periods of service can be the results of any uniform and natural action of the charge? The explosion of so much additional powder as the shells contain, though undoubtedly adding materially to the strain upon the gun might not seriously damage it; but as the base of the shell will probably be in one piece with the ring connected, and the sides of the projectile driven laterally against the bore, it is not surprising that partial jamming of these should take place and try the gun to a dangerous point.

I have portions of the front or curved end of a shell burst in the gun, which are so marked as to show these fragments to have been violently forced into the grooves. Although I conceive that the failure of the guns at any part forward of the reinforce is certainly due to accidents occurring with the projectile, I cannot conclude that similar accidents might not cause the bursting of the gun in another part depending on the position of the shell at the time. In one instance at Morris Island, the base of the shell was actually found in the gun after the blowing off the breech.

In other cases the cast-iron may be so injured by previous explosions as in bursting to carry the band with it.

In conclusion I would express my belief that I have correctly assigned the causes of the bursting of my heavy guns. I do not consider that they are less safe than ordinary cannon when subjected to the same regularity of strain.

On account of the very uncertain action of shells prematurely exploded in the bores of rifle guns, we are unable to determine the extent of injury, therefore, and cannot judge of the number of rounds which the guns can subsequently be expected to endure with safety.

At the same time I am satisfied that the means now used do effectually prevent the premature explosion of the shells and thus remove the greatest cause of danger to the guns. It is due to the subject and to myself that I should advert to the firing of other projectiles than my own in my heavy guns. I cannot but think that many shells much inferior to those which the same makers would now supply, have been used in my rifle guns, as well as many projectiles of an experimental kind.

The action of powder in the rifle takes place under circumstances very different from those existing with the spherical projectile, and in my judgment far too little consideration has been heretofore given to this point as connected with the durability of the guns.

R. F. PARROTT.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THE ARMY SURGEON'S MANUAL. By WILLIAM GRACE. This is a handy volume, designed for the use of medical officers, cadets, chaplains and hospital stewards. It contains the regulations of the Medical Department, all General Orders from the War Department, and Circulars from the Surgeon-General's office, during the years 1861, 1862 and 1863. It is published by permission of the Surgeon-General, and will be found a useful companion. New York: BAILLIERE Brothers.

LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN. By JOSEPH H. BARRETT. This volume contains an interesting account of the President's early history, a record of his political career, a résumé of his Congressional career, and his famous stumping of Illinois in opposition to Senator DOUGLASS. It also gives the outline of his speeches and messages, and a general view of his policy and his administration as President, with his proclamations and letters. Cincinnati: MOORE, WILSTACH & BALDWIN.

The *Journal des Sciences Militaires*, for December, is received. The first article is a continuation of the essay on the *Machine à Gaz*, a practical and interesting treatise, by C. DE STRUVE, lieutenant-colonel of engineers in the Russian Army. It is followed by a continuation of the series on Modern Calvary, translated from Colonel MORENO. Next comes the Campaigns of HANNIBAL, one of the Historical and Military Studies of Lieutenant-Colonel MACDOUGALL, commanding the Staff College at Sandhurst, translated from the English by Captain TESTARDE. This chapter treats of the march into Italy and the first campaign. A short article follows on Steel Shot, consisting chiefly of the late editorial on that subject in the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL, which is quoted with due acknowledgment. Then follows in full the advance sheets of General GILLMORE's work on the artillery employed at the attack on Charleston, first published in the JOURNAL. Finally, we have the discourse before the Imperial Geographical Society, pronounced by his Excellency the Marquis de CHESSELOUP-LAUBAT, Minister of the Marine and of the Colonies. Paris: J. CORREARD.

The *Journal des Armes Speciales*, for December 15, 1864, is at hand. It begins with another installment of the New Studies on Rifled Arms for Infantry, by Captain DE PLENNIERS, of the Army of the Grand Duchy of Hesse—translated from the German by Captain TARDIEU. The second article is upon Rifled Cannon. It comprises a historical review of the development and perfectionment of this arm. By J. SCHMIDT, lieutenant-colonel in the Bavarian Army. The present article, continued from a former number, treats of the French rifled artillery, compared with the English, and of the San Roberto system. The third and last article is upon the Profession of Arms, by Brigadier DON OSARIO. Paris: J. CORREARD.

We acknowledge the receipt of the Report of the General Superintendent of Freedmen, Department of the Tennessee and State of Arkansas, for 1864.

We have received the German *Military Weekly Journal*, edited by the Historical Department of the Prussian General Staff, to which are annexed the following valuable pamphlets of reference: 1. SUMMARY of the most important maps of Europe, with especial reference to the military geographical necessity; collected by E. VON SYDOW, Major of the Army attached to the Central-general staff. First part, with nine appendices. 2. Additional number to the military weekly paper for January to September, inclusive, 1864. Edited by the historical division of the general staff. Berlin, 1864. Printed and for sale by E. S. MITTLER & SON. 3. Appendix to the additional number of the military weekly paper for January to September, 1864, relative to the review of the most important maps of Europe. The latter contains *Skeleton Reference Maps* of European Russia, Norway and Sweden, England (Ordnance Map), France, Italy, &c. These are valuable inasmuch as they indicate the sheets of the war maps published by the several powers. The suggestion which we make after examination is that our students of military history can send out to Europe for such Topographical Maps as they may need in the prosecution of their researches, or in order to follow closely the movements of armies, &c. Such an index to European Military Maps (as it were) is very important, as we are not aware that anything of this kind has ever yet been accessible in this country. Another SUPPLEMENT contains an account of the part played by the Prussian Guard-Grenadier Regiment at the storming of the works of Düppel, April 18, 1864, with plans; likewise of the battle of Sonders-Trauders and Lundby, July 3, 1864. To any one desirous of making a close examination of these operations, such plans are very interesting and valuable.

It gives us great pleasure to record that Major-General GEORGE G. MEADE has been confirmed by the Senate as Major-General in the Regular Army, his commission to date from the 18th of August last. A long and severe criticism of his military exploits, that officer has passed safely, and has received the promotion to which his distinguished services have entitled him. Eighteen months ago, General MEADE's name was on all lips as the hero of Gettysburg, and the officer by whose exertions the dangerous tide of Rebel invasion had been stemmed and turned back. With GRANT, who was fresh from the laurels of Vicksburg, he held almost a divided sway in the popular affection. From that time to the present, General MEADE has been constantly and unremittently engaged in the service of the country. He has commanded the gallant Army of the Potomac longer than any other of its leaders. During the present campaign, he has enjoyed the full confidence of General GRANT. If, in common with his gallant men, he has seen victory long delayed from his banners, he and they may remember that they have been contending against odds unknown to their comrades in the West, and that when they do triumph, their success will be the death-blow to the Confederacy. So long as Gettysburg lives in our history, as one of the very few decisive battles of the war, General MEADE's name will be famous among American soldiers. It must be added that, concerning General MEADE's appointment, General GRANT says:

"General MEADE was appointed at my solicitation, after a campaign the most protracted, and covering more severely contested battles, than any of which we have any account in history.

"I have been with General MEADE during the whole campaign, and not only made the recommendation upon a conviction that this recognition of his services was fully won, but that he was eminently qualified for the command such rank would entitle him to.

"General MEADE is one of our truest men and ablest officers. He has been constantly with that Army confronting the strongest, best appointed and most confident army in the South. He, therefore, has not had the same opportunity of winning laurels so distinctly marked as has fallen to the lot of other Generals; but I defy any man to name a Commander who would do more than he has done with the same chances.

(Signed) U. S. GRANT, Lieut.-Gen."

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL ADAM BADENAU, Military Secretary to General GRANT, has been for some time in New York on sick leave.

MILITARY AND NAVAL AFFAIRS IN CONGRESS.

THE Senate has occupied a considerable portion of its time during the week in discussing the subject of retaliating for the treatment of our soldiers imprisoned in the South, but no definite conclusion was reached. The House resolution of thanks to General SHERIDAN and his Army has passed unanimously. A list of all the general officers in the service of the United States on the 1st of January, 1865, was received from the Secretary of War. It comprises sixty-six major-generals and two hundred and seventy-six brigadiers, making a total of three hundred and thirty-three. Of this number two hundred and forty-five are in command, two hundred of whom are brigadier-generals. Eight major-generals and twelve brigadier-generals are awaiting orders, and one major-general and one hundred and forty brigadiers are off duty on account of wounds and sickness. These are Generals SICKLES, RICKETTS, ASBOTH, BARLOW, R. O. TYLER, SCHEMMELENNING, PAUL, GRESHAM, UNDERWOOD, CONNOR, MCINTOSH, BRADLEY, LONG, EGAN and STANNARD. Two brigadier-generals (HAYES and DUFFIE) are prisoners of war. General HAYES is now released on parole for the purpose of attending to the distribution of supplies sent to our soldiers in Rebel prisons. Generals BANKS and LEE are before the Committee on the Conduct of the War, and Generals JOHN MCNEIL, FRANCIS SPINDLE and THOMAS N. SWENEY are under trial by court-martial. The remainder are on courts-martial and military commissions and awaiting orders. In reply to the Secretary's statement that Generals BANKS and LEE were before the Committee on the Conduct of the War, the Chairman of that Committee denied that their detention in Washington was due to that Committee. A communication was also received from the Secretary of War, in reply to the resolution inquiring why he had not appointed commissioners to pay loyal owners for their slaves mustered into the military service of the United States. The Secretary states that commissioners have been appointed for Maryland and Delaware, but not yet for any other State. In answer to the resolution calling for the rolls of the slaves mustered into the service from the State of Maryland, the Secretary replied that it has been the uniform practice not to furnish such rolls, as they give room for fraud against the Government; and in this case the President has given orders not to furnish the rolls. In answer to another resolution, the Secretary informed the Senate that a Commission for the investigation of the conduct of Brigadier-General PAINE was organized without competent authority, that its proceedings have been disapproved, and that a court-martial having been regularly organized for the trial of General PAINE, upon certain charges preferred, it is not, in the opinion of the President, compatible with the public interest to furnish the papers called for in the resolution. The resolution calling upon the Secretary of War for information as to the number of men furnished by each State in the different calls for troops, was taken up and passed.

The House bill making appropriation for the Military Academy was passed. Mr. Wilson reported the bill in addition to the acts for enrolling and calling out the National forces, with amendments, which provides for the acceptance as a substitute of a person liable to be drafted. The clause which holds the principal, in case of desertion by the substitute, is stricken out, and the substitute is punished by a forfeiture of the rights of citizenship. The same Senator introduced a bill for the better reorganization of the pay department of the United States Army, which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs. It gives the Paymaster-General the rank and pay of a brigadier-general, and provides for the appointment of two assistants, who shall be *ex officio* inspector-generals of the department, with rank and pay of colonels; and also creates ten deputy-paymaster-generals, in addition to the two now authorized, to be chosen from the present officers of the pay department, and makes provision for additional pay districts, to which paymasters may be detailed as acting deputies, not exceeding ten in number. It also empowers the Secretary of War to detail officers of the pay department for duty as inspectors of such department, not exceeding four in number at any one time, who shall receive during their detail the rank and pay of deputy-paymasters.

The following petitions were received and referred to the appropriate committees:—From chaplains in the Navy, asking for an increase of pay; from Army officers, asking for the creation of the rank of brevet second lieutenant in the Army; from W. H. WEBB, asking for increased compensation for building the *Dunderberg*; from citizens of Savannah, asking compensation for losses sustained by the destruction of property by Union troops.

A resolution of investigation into alleged corruption in official bureaus called forth a severe attack on the Navy Department from Senator HALE, who was especially severe in his assault on Assistant-Secretary FOX.

The House of Representatives has passed the bill for the construction of a ship canal around the Falls of Niagara. The Navy Appropriation bill [was considered in the Committee of the Whole. Several of the appropriations recommended by the Committee of Ways and Means were increased.

A memorial presented from the Indiana Legislature, asking for a discharge of the recruits from that State who volunteered in old regiments in 1862, on the understanding and agreement of the mustering officer that they were to be discharged with the regiment when its term of service expired, was ordered to be printed, and was referred to the Military Committee.

A resolution that the thanks of Congress and of the country are due, and are hereby tendered, to the President of the United States for relieving Major-General BUTLER from military command, was laid on the table—97 against 43.

The Naval Committee of the House are understood to have unanimously adopted the report of their chairman, Mr. A. H. RICE, on the subject of the resolution introduced

during the last session, on the condition of naval machinery built by Mr. ISHERWOOD, the Chief of the Bureau of Steam Engineering; the causes of the failure of the machinery of the *Pensacola*, from the plans of Mr. E. N. DICKERSON, and the administration of the engineering department of the Navy, including the charges of fraud and incapacity. The report vindicates the management of the Bureau of Steam Engineering, stating that the machinery is in accordance with the latest improvements, and that the mode adopted of using the steam, with a very moderate measure of expansion, is in accordance with the most recent scientific researches and practical experiments, and has the inforcement of all able and experienced engineers. The comparison of his machinery with that previously constructed for our Navy, and for the French and English Navies, and for the merchant marine, shows an incontestible superiority and a greater speed of vessels.

THE BATTLE OF CHICKAMAUGA.

YELLOW SPRINGS, Ohio, Monday, Jan. 23, 1865.

To the Editors of the New York Commercial Advertiser:—

GENTLEMEN:—Some one has furnished me with a copy of your issue of the 12th instant, containing a very generous article in reference to my military services, for which I feel none the less grateful, because, I doubt not, it was prompted by your interest in the country's welfare, and your sense of justice to those who have occupied prominent positions on trying occasions in her service.

But the article contains a remark about Chickamauga which is not strictly just. To correct it, I send you a pamphlet written by the author of the *Annals of the Cumberland*, which gives a correct and just view of the battle of Chickamauga. I may add that we have four independent ways of arriving at the fact that we fought against terrible odds there.

1. This was the opinion of the corps and division commanders, none of whom were bad judges.

2. The enemy reports a loss of eighteen thousand seven hundred (18,700) killed and wounded, and admits his loss to have been twenty per cent. of his entire command, a very large loss, which gave him 93,500 at Chickamauga.

3. BRAGG had 32,000 troops when driven from his entrenched camp at Shelbyville and Tullahoma, across the mountains and the Tennessee. BUCKNER joined him with about 10,000 troops from East Tennessee, JOHNSTON with about 25,000, and LONGSTREET with about 25,000 more, giving again 92,000 as the whole force.

4. General GRANT and several of his subordinates estimate the force fought at Mission Ridge, at from 45,000 to 50,000. Add 25,000 for LONGSTREET's Army, which had previously left, and was then in front of Knoxville, and 18,000 for those put *hors du combat* at Chickamauga, and it gives 88,000.

5. A Union merchant, of Chattanooga, who was at Marietta when the foe were advancing on us, tried to send me word, and subsequently saw and told me that the enemy had reinforced BRAGG with 30,000 under LONGSTREET, and 25,000 under JOHNSON, in addition to which Governor BROWN had 15,000 Georgia militia; and so confident were they of overwhelming us, that the Kentucky and Tennessee Rebel refugees at Marietta had hired conveyances and loaded their household goods, expecting to follow their victorious hosts back into Tennessee and Kentucky.

I could add much more corroborative evidence to show that the brave and devoted Army of the Cumberland sustained and successfully resisted the utmost power of a veteran Rebel army, filled with the spirit of emulation and hope, and more than one-half, larger than itself; inflicted on it much more damage than we received, and held the coveted objective point, Chattanooga.

What we attempted we accomplished. We took Chattanooga from a force nearly as large as our own, and held it after the enemy had been reinforced by as many men as we had in our whole command.

W. S. ROSECRANS, Major-General.

A TESTIMONIAL DECLINED.

A PROPOSITION having been made in Cincinnati and Louisville to raise a fund for the presentation of a testimonial to Major-General THOMAS, he sends the following letter to the *Cincinnati Gazette*:—

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND, }
EASTPORT, Miss., January 17. }

To the Editor of the Cincinnati Gazette:—

DEAR SIR:—From an article I saw yesterday in the *Louisville Press*, I am led to believe that, at your suggestion, the citizens of Cincinnati and Louisville are about to raise a sum of money for the purpose of presenting me with a suitable testimonial of their appreciation of my services since this war commenced. Whilst I am duly and profoundly sensible of the high compliment proposed to be paid me, I would greatly prefer, and if not premature, request, that any sum which may be raised for that purpose may be devoted to the founding of a fund for the relief of disabled soldiers, and of the indigent widows and orphans of officers and soldiers who have lost their lives during this war. I am amply rewarded when assured that my humble services have met with the approbation of the Government and the people.

With much respect, I remain your obedient servant,
GEO. H. THOMAS, Major-General U. S. V.

The following General Order No. 10, issued by Major-General ORD, shows that strict attention is paid to discipline in the Army of the James:—

I. Hereafter, and until further orders, the troops of this command will be under arms at reveille, which will be sounded at day-break. The regimental adjutant, all company officers, and one field officer, or in case there is no field officer in the regiment, an officer acting as such, will be present. The adjutant will receive the reports from the company commanders, and report to the field officer all absent without proper authority. Brigade and division commanders will send their staff officers at reveille to see if this order is executed. The practice of staff officers at various headquarters remaining abed until 9 or 10 o'clock, must be

stopped. The day's duties begin at guard mount, and officers must all be ready at that time.

II. All applications for leaves of absence or furloughs, to whatever authority made, must state the reasons; and if for furlough, the applicant will send proof of the truth thereof. In compliance with orders from headquarters Armies of the United States, such applications will be only granted in extreme cases.

UNDER date of January 17, 1865, Rear-Admiral PORTER writes in this complimentary manner to Commodore S. W. GODON, commanding U. S. frigate *Susquehanna*:

"I take this opportunity to express to you how much I appreciate the services you have rendered to me officially, and the kind, good feeling you have shown me personally. I shall part with you and your ship with exuberant regret, and as it is not likely that we shall be associated together again in the present war, I can only hope that we may meet once more opposed to our outside enemies, where fighting ship against ship, instead of against sand hills, you will, I am sure, be as successful as you have hitherto been. I do not say to it flatter you, but your vessel has been one of the best conducted in this squadron, and in going into action or preparing for service, I never gave myself any thought about you, for I knew you would be ready at the right time, and be in the proper place in action. No doubt every officer is animated with a proper zeal on an occasion like this; but something more is wanted to enable the commander of a squadron to avail himself of the full capability of every ship under his command. He should not be expected to think for any one ship, so that his mind may be ready at all times to regulate the plan of battle. In this respect you have rendered me the most essential service, and have conducted your ship not only with zeal, but with the right kind of intelligence, showing that you possess the highest attributes of a commander. You will have the satisfaction of knowing that your name will be associated with, I think, the most important event of the war, and the most damaging one to the enemy. We all know the part the Navy has taken in the capture of this stronghold. Every man who has done his duty as you have may rest satisfied that he will not be forgotten by his country when the time comes to reward those who have done the hard work and the fighting.

"As I am now writing, the death-knell of another fort is booming in the distance. Fort Caswell, with its powerful batteries is in flames, and is being blown up, and thus is sealed the door through which the Rebellion is fed. With my warmest wishes for your safe return home, and hoping this is not our last association on duty, I remain, yours sincerely and respectfully,

DAVID D. PORTER, Rear-Admiral."

By order of Major-General Foster, a military tax of one per cent. will be levied on all goods brought into the Department of the South, except the District of North Carolina, for the purpose of trade, on and after January 17, 1865. The value of such goods will be determined by the invoices passed through the Custom House at Hilton Head. The fund accruing from this tax will be used for the purpose of providing steam, and other fire engines, repairing wharves, roads, public buildings, and other necessary civil expenses for the several cities and towns within the limits of the department. Lieutenant-Colonel James H. Strong, First N. C. Union Vols., is detailed to attend to the collection and disbursement of this fund, under direction of the major-general commanding. Lieutenant-Colonel S. L. Woodford, One Hundred and Twenty-seventh N. Y. Vols., will act for Lieutenant-Colonel Strong, until the arrival of that officer from North Carolina.

MAJOR James Fleming has been commissioned Lieutenant-Colonel, to date from November 30, 1864, of the 28th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, vice Cartwright, promoted; Captain Samuel D. Shipley, Major, October 20, 1864, of the Thirtieth Volunteers, vice Clarke, died of wounds received in action; Lieutenant-Colonel Levi P. Wright, Colonel, January 26, 1865, of the First Heavy Artillery, vice Tannatt, discharged; Major Nathaniel Shatswell, Lieutenant-Colonel same regiment, same date, vice Wright, promoted.

BRIGADIER-General R. Saxton, having been assigned by the Major-General commanding the Military Division of the Mississippi, to the duties of providing for the well-being of the negroes, and their locations upon the plantations, as "Inspector of Settlements and Plantations," Brigadier-General E. E. Potter, will relieve Brigadier-General Saxton, of the military command of the district of Beaufort, which is enlarged to suit the entrenched camp near Pocotaligo, S. C.

LIEUTENANT-Colonel W. D. Green has been relieved from duty as Assistant Adjutant-General of the Department of Arkansas and 7th Army corps, and ordered to proceed to St. Louis, Mo., and report by letter to the Adjutant-General of the Army for orders. Major John Levering, Assistant Adjutant-General of Volunteers, is assigned to duty as Assistant Adjutant-General of the Department of Arkansas.

By command of Lieutenant-General Grant, special orders No. 44, dated June 28th, 1864, from headquarters, Armies of the United States, is modified so as to allow to each division of cavalry and infantry for armorers' tools, parts of muskets, extra arms and accoutrements, two wagons instead of one.

The disability which it is understood the First corps has labored under with reference to the benefits provided by legislation in Pennsylvania having been removed by the recent action of the Legislature, there is no longer any obstacle to the appointment of officers from that State, and applications for commissions are now being considered by the Department.

It having been reported to the major-general commanding the Army of the Potomac that the colors of the Twentieth Massachusetts Volunteers, recently lost in battle, were lost under circumstances that reflect no dishonor, the right to carry other colors, of which this regiment was deprived, has been restored.

COLONEL Alexander, of the Engineer corps, has been ordered to make an examination of the ruins of the Smithsonian Institution, and report what is required to restore it to its former condition.

N. B. DAVIS, identified at Newark, Ohio, some days since as keeper of the Andersonville, Ga., military prison, and who confessed, on his arrest, being the bearer of dispatches from Richmond to Canada, has been sentenced to be hung on Johnson's Island on February 17.

A LETTER from Key West, dated Jan. 23d, gives additional particulars in regard to the loss of the U. S. steam sloop *San Jacinto* on the 1st of January: At eight o'clock on the previous evening the *San Jacinto*, being forty-four miles from land, was running at the rate of five knots, when orders were given to run her twenty-five miles towards the land and then head her off shore. At this time her fore and aft sails were set. At half-past one, a.m., on the 1st, she struck on a reef, between Green Turtle Key and No Name Key. The wind was then blowing off shore, from west northwest. The topsail and topgallant sails were then loosed and thrown aback with the view of backing the vessel off. At the same time a boat was lowered, with an anchor attached to a stout hawser, and let go astern, and a heavy strain was made on the latter, bringing the stern of the ship to port a little; but the strain was too great for the hawser to sustain, and it parted. As long as the wind remained at west northwest the sails were kept aback, the engines working all the time. At five o'clock a.m., the wind having hauled more to the northward, sail was taken in. In the meantime another anchor, of about twelve hundred pounds, was made ready to be carried astern, and let go attached to a new hawser; but, in consequence of the wind from the northward freshening, it was found impossible for the anchor to be carried out, even with three boats and the assistance of the wreckers. At six a.m., there were three feet water in the hold, and the leak rapidly increasing. At seven o'clock the engines, which had been working all the time, gave out. At nine o'clock, being high water, there were seven feet of water in the hold, when the ship bilged. At one p.m., Captain Meade ordered the sick to be sent ashore, which was accomplished with the assistance of the wreckers. The number amounted to about forty. They were accompanied by the surgeon. This accomplished, the next thing done was to save the stores, sails and other portable property belonging to the ship. On the morning of the 2d all hands were again set to work to save the property of the vessel and to convert the sails into tents for the accommodation of the officers and men. By dark this was accomplished, the vessel abandoned and all hands encamped on No-Name Key. On hearing of the disaster, Mr. Brown, the resident magistrate at Green Turtle Key, where there is an establishment, dispatched a vessel to Nassau with the intelligence, whereupon the Governor sent her Majesty's steamer *Melac* (not *Melcor*) with provisions and all things needful, with offers of assistance to Captain Meade; but, as the *San Jacinto* was well found in provisions and other necessities, Captain Meade returned a courteous answer to the Governor, informing him, while returning thanks, that he was supplied with all things needful. The *Margaret Ann*, the schooner which was chartered to bring away the guns of the *San Jacinto*, arrived here on the 19th in company with the *Tallapoosa*, having the entire battery on board. Captain Meade, his officers and crew, at least such of the latter as remain—for fifty-one men have deserted—are as comfortable as could be expected under the circumstances in which they are placed. It seems that certain rascals have been at work enticing the men to desert; and one of them—said to be an Englishman—has been caught, and has met with his deserts.

THE *Musocota* which returned to the Brooklyn Navy Yard in consequence of the breaking of her rudder chain, has sailed again, the damage having been repaired. The *Stag* and *Charlotte*, prize steamers, arrived on the 28th ult. and sailed again next day. The *Susquehanna*, *Colorado*, supply steamer *Queen*, and iron-clad *Chimo*, also arrived during the week. The light-drift gunboat *Hibiscus*, sister ship to the *Spirae*, which sailed last week, sailed on Sunday morning bound for the East Gulf squadron. Her officers are:—Volunteer Lieutenant-Commanding, Wm. L. Martin; Acting Master and Executive Officer, J. Green Koehler; Acting Assistant Surgeon, A. S. Bassett; Acting Assistant Paymaster, G. H. Griffing; Acting Ensigns, J. C. Van Deventer, Charles R. Scofield, Josiah Thomas, George R. Lowen; Engineers—Acting Chief, Burdett C. Goring; Acting Second Assistants, George B. Dunkley, William Ray; Acting Third Assistants, George West, Solon C. Smith. The dimensions of the *Owario*, sloop-of-war referred to two weeks ago, are given as follows: length, 310 feet; beam, 46 feet; and depth, 24 feet; capacity, 3,000 tons, and pierced in two tiers for 22 nine-inch guns, each weighing 9,000 pounds. The engines are building at Roche's establishment with two sixty-inch cylinders. Over 4,000 men are employed at the Yard. The gradual but constant improvement in organization and working facilities which the Navy Department has been able to achieve in the midst of the hurrying demands upon its powers for the past three or four years, is beginning to tell in the rapidity with which work is got off, and in the reduction of the long list of vessels under repair or in course of construction in the Yard and in New York.

It is now stated that the number of French war vessels to be dismantled is not eighteen, as at first announced, but thirty-three. Care, however, will be taken, in making this reduction, not to affect the service of the Naval stations. The Paris correspondent of the *London Post*, in speaking of the reduction of the military and naval expenses of France, attributes the recommended economy to the Emperor's sagacity and forethought, which enabled him to see that, although surrounded by neighboring armies of great power, he could at the present period safely reduce his warlike expenditure and place his national finances on a solid basis, to the advantage of commerce and material progress; for scarcely any of the continental Powers could find the requisite money to move their legions beyond the frontier, supposing they desired to do so. The *Patrie*, however, publishes a paragraph scarcely in harmony with the boasted pacific intentions of France and the much talked-of reduction of armaments. That journal says:—"No considerations of economy are to delay the construction of our fighting fleet, which is to go on conformably to previous estimates; the iron-clad ships now on the stocks are also to be launched as soon as possible, and those already launched will be completed and armed without delay."

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion, in communications addressed to the JOURNAL.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"C. J. T."—The "Major-Generals of the United States Army" in the order of their rank are H. W. HALLECK, 19th August, 1861; W. T. SHERMAN, 12th August, 1864; PHILIP H. SHERIDAN, 8th November, 1864; GEO. H. THOMAS, 15th December, 1864.

"S. T. S."—You should make application to go before General CASBY's board at Washington for the examination of officers for negro regiments. They will settle the question of your rank after examining you as to your knowledge of tactics, regulations, and your general intelligence and information.

"ARTILLERY."—1. The point blank range of a gun in the American and French services is the range at the line of metal elevation. It depends therefore on the external form of the gun. In the English service it is the range on a horizontal plane, the axis of the gun being also horizontal and 4 feet 6 inches above the plane. 2. Gravity acts upon the ball as it lays in the gun and during every moment of its flight; it never commences to act. 3. We refer you to any standard work or arithmetic for an answer to your third question.

"J. S."—We know of no bill passed by Congress during the present war giving sailors 160 acres of land after serving three years. A law was passed March 3, 1865, granting 160 acres of land to "officers, seamen, ordinary seamen, flotilla men, marines, clerks, and landmen in the Navy, in any of the wars in which this country has been engaged since seventeen hundred and ninety." The act relates, however, only to the wars occurring previous to the date of its passage.

"W. H. W."—"F. H. B."—You will find the regulations as to admission to the Military and Naval Academies on page 28 ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL, Vol. I, No. 2. Appointments are made on the nomination of members of Congress, and ten appointments at large by the PRESIDENT. Appointments have also been made from the Army of late, to fill the vacancies occasioned by the failure of the members of Congress from the seceding States to make their usual nominations. For further information we refer you to the paper mentioned.

"ARMY."—The name used by the Romans in their language for army, *exercitus*, was borrowed from the Latin word signifying exercise. It was an index of the thorough and rigid training to which the Roman soldier was at all times subjected. Recruits and young soldiers were trained both morning and evening, and even the veterans were required to drill daily. Large sheds were erected in the winter quarters of the troops, that their drill might not be interrupted by the weather, and it was expressly required that the arms used for exercise should be double the weight of those required in real action.

"M. L. W."—General HALLECK is Chief of Staff of the Army, "under the direction of the Secretary of War and the Lieutenant-General Commanding." (See G. O. No. 94, A. G. O. of 1861). In matters coming within the control of the Lieutenant-General commanding, he acts as Chief of Staff to General GRANT, and in matters of higher jurisdiction he acts as Chief of Staff to the Secretary of War, who, as executive officer of the PRESIDENT, is *de facto* Commander-in-Chief of the Army. The position is somewhat anomalous in our service, but we believe it has the sanction of law if not of precedent.

"NAVY."—1. There are three grades of Engineers in the Navy—1st, 2d and 3d. The number assigned to a vessel depends upon the class of the vessel. Some have as high as ten, and none less than three. The Chief Engineer after fifteen years ranks with a Captain, after ten years with a Commander, after five years with a Lieutenant-Commander. A First Assistant Engineer ranks with a Master, a Second Assistant Engineer with an Ensign, and a Third Assistant Engineer with a Midshipman. 2. An applicant for a position should have an ordinary English education, a knowledge of steam and the steam engine, and ability to work an engine. For the Volunteer service the department has no objection to age. 3. The Chief Engineer has no watch, but is responsible for the engine and for the performance of duty by his subordinates. On a large vessel two Engineers are on watch. Applicants in New York for examination can present their testimonials respecting character, length of service, &c., at the Chief Engineer's office, Brooklyn Navy Yard, and be examined without making application to the Department at Washington.

ARMS AND AMMUNITION.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR:—It is probable that the present war will witness greater changes in arms and ammunition than have ever taken place within the same, or anything like the same space of time. It is a singular fact, but one easy to account for, that the introduction of new arms, or of any change in the mode of using arms, has always been a very slow process. Men dare not trust themselves to make experiments where a failure involves destruction, and are therefore very shy of innovations upon what they have proved to be efficient in actual service. More than a century elapsed after the first use of gunpowder in war, before the bow was superseded by the musket, and every successive improvement of arms or ammunition, has had to work its way into popular favor among soldiers, through fierce opposition and adverse criticism. When an army, however, is taught the superiority of a new weapon by experiencing its effect upon itself in the hands of an enemy, very little time is required to make converts who are zealous to secure the means of placing themselves on an equality with their antagonists. The Southern soldiers have discovered to their cost the irresistible effect of our repeating rifles, and the Richmond *Sentinel* recently contained a long and able editorial, urging the immediate establishment of a manufactory of copper cartridges to supply ammunition for the Spencer rifles which have fallen into their hands, but which they cannot use for want of the peculiar ammunition they require.

The introduction of this ammunition constitutes one of the most important improvements this war has developed, and it seems destined to supersede all other forms in use for small arms. Its compact form, with the fulminate in its base rendering the use of caps unnecessary; its capaci-

ty of enduring uninjured [the wear and tear of transportation and exposure to wet; and finally the ease with which it may be used either in loading or withdrawing it from the gun, affords such manifest arguments in its favor as cannot be disproved or gainsaid, and must force its general adoption for military use. Its manufacture for the Army ought, however, as soon as possible, to be prosecuted at national establishments and under the direction of Government officers. It is so important that its quality should be the best possible, and it is so easy to substitute inferior ingredients without risk of discovery until it is used, that it is not right to entrust its manufacture to private establishments, whose proprietors must be exposed to the temptation thus offered.

We already have abundant proof of this in the fact that the cartridges offered for sale in the gun shops, have deteriorated greatly from those which were first manufactured. Not only are they very unequal in force, owing to their being charged with poor powder, but the proportion of those which miss fire is enormously increased. We have known five out of twenty cartridges taken indiscriminately from the box, to miss fire, and we hear the same complaint from sportsmen in all directions. This of course is unnecessary, and doubtless will be guarded against in military ammunition by the establishment of national factories. But sportsmen must depend for their supplies upon private manufactories, and must take the risk of being served with an inferior article whose variable quality renders its shooting unreliable. Nor is this the worst. As competition increases with the rapidly growing demand, use will be made of a cheaper but far more dangerous substitute for the composition of the fulminate. This will, however, in time work its own cure by the number of "shocking accidents" which will ensue. The number engaged in rifle practice is very rapidly increasing, and the tyro in the art finds himself relieved from so much labor and exercise of judgment in loading, by the use of the new ammunition, that it is not surprising the demand for guns should be almost exclusively confined to those to which it is adapted. Even experienced sportsmen, though reluctant at first to lay aside judgment and skill they have acquired in selecting their powder and measuring their own charges, can hardly resist the temptation that offers to relieve themselves of so much care and labor in loading, cleaning, &c. Having once yielded to it, they are not likely to return to the use of the old muzzle-loader.

The Maynard rifle offers a compromise between the two systems of rifled muskets, which would have insured for it the highest rank in the estimation of all who are capable of judging of their respective merits, were it not that circumstances have excluded it from the market at the very time when guns have been most in demand, and the inquiry for the best arms has been most eager. It is a breech-loader of the very simplest and most ingenious construction, using a metallic cartridge, possessing when used with the primer, all the advantages offered by the self-exploding cartridge, but which is loaded by the sportsman for himself, with such powder as he may select, and may be used over and over again for an indefinite time. High testimony to its merit is afforded by the fact that it was recognized and appreciated by the astute mind of JEFFERSON DAVIS as long ago as when he was Secretary of War, and (probably at his instigation) before the war broke out, Southern agents were in our markets buying up every Maynard rifle that could be found. Their terrible effects in the hands of regiments of Georgians and Mississippians, were witnessed at Ball's Bluff, Gettysburg, and elsewhere. Soon after the breaking out of the war the manufactory was destroyed by fire, and since its restoration it has been so fully occupied with Government work, that none have been offered for sale. The consequence is that the best breech-loading gun for the sportsman's use that has ever been produced is comparatively unknown, and is never seen in the gunshops.

The cavalry carbines, now being made for the Army use, are not provided with the arrangement for using the primer, but are fired with a cap, and guns of the old pattern can rarely be had at second hand, when they always command a very high price. As a sample of ingenious contrivance, in securing the utmost degree of accuracy and power of performance, in the most compact and nicely finished form; of such strength and simplicity as fits it for the roughest exposure, it is difficult to conceive of anything superior. The length of the barrel is but twenty inches, and when removed from the stock, the whole gun may be carried in a valise of that length, and its weight is but six pounds, yet at two hundred yards every shot may be placed in a ten-inch ring, and its penetration surpasses that of any gun using the same weight of powder and lead. For any ordinary service the small-bore barrel (35-100 calibre) is sufficient, and for large game, as bears, buffalo, moose, and the like, the large bore (1 inch calibre) is the most efficient weapon we have ever seen; and both barrels, as well as a shot barrel being fitted to the same stock, and capable of being changed in a moment, it offers to the sportsman such an armory as no other single weapon comprises.

[It may be well to say that there is much difference of opinion in regard to the Maynard rifle; that the primer requires additional machinery to work it, and is at least as liable to get out of order as any well-made percussion arrangement; that there are a number of copper-cartridge rifles which appear to possess advantages so nearly equal as to leave but little choice between them; that to an Army with so perfect an Ordnance Department as ours, the difficulty of providing any cartridge, however peculiar, is of little or no account.—EDITOR.]

FACINGS.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR:—I beg leave to submit the following article on facings. I think there is no part of the tactics so difficult to impart and be made understood to soldiers as the present system of facings. I suggest that all instruction directing even and odd numbers to place themselves in certain positions at certain commands be dispensed with. It would be well if the numbers one and two alone be used to designate

groups of comrades in battle. The following instructions I think preferable to those in common use:

I. To double files, when facing in line of battle to a flank, the men having turned on the heels, those who find themselves in rear of their comrades will step to that side of them indicated by the word right or left, in the command right (or left) face.

II. Faced by the right or left flank, to face so as to form line of battle, the men having executed the command right (or left) face (or front), those who are in rear of their comrades will step up alongside of them in their regular order, as, when faced to the front or faced about, number two always being careful to keep farther away from the first sergeant than his comrade, number one.

Perhaps almost the same idea may have been presented to the readers of the JOURNAL in an article some time last year.

This instruction, however, is different, and, I think, can, in nine cases out of ten, be more readily understood.

Yours, very respectfully, MAJOR.
BRAUFORT, S. C. January 20th 1865.

THE REGULARS IN THE WEST.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR:—The Government and the people seem to have forgotten that there are any Regular troops outside of the Army of the Potomac. It is my pleasing duty to recall their recollection to the fact that ever since the opening of the war there have been four regiments of infantry serving in the Department of the Cumberland—the 15th, the 16th, the 18th and the 19th. Engaged in every battle under Generals BUELL, ROSECRANS and THOMAS, through the whole campaign under SHERMAN to Atlanta, with Shiloh, Stone River, Hoover's Gap, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Mission Ridge, Buzzard's Roost, Resaca, New Hope Church, Kenesaw Mountain, Marietta, Peach Tree Creek, Atlanta and Jonesboro, engraved on our colors, after three years' field service, we have been permitted to go into garrison to recruit ourselves for the spring campaign. It is a matter of surprise to us that while officers of the Army of the Potomac are being brevetted by the score, our trifling services during the war have been apparently ignored. I write that the people may know that we are still in the field, organized into a brigade, which numbers nearly 2,000 men. The opinion very generally entertained here of the system of brevets is that it is a most notorious humbug. Not that we claim any superior merits, nor to have done any superior service to other troops, but we do think the record of thirteen victories and one defeat does at least entitle us to be placed on an equal footing with other troops, and entitles us to a like recognition of services. The reason we are overlooked is because we are but four regiments in number only, I presume. Yet we are now, and we always have been, stronger in number than any other brigade of Regular troops in the service; and we have seen the time, previous to SHERMAN's campaign, when our lone brigade, carrying the blue flag and golden star, outnumbered all the Regular infantry in the Army of the Potomac. I write with no spirit of envy, but that through your columns I may be able to place the record of our little brigade before the public, that they may be able to judge of our claim to merit. Some steps, too, must soon be taken to fill our depleted list of officers. In my regiment (the 16th) we have only six first lieutenants, and no seconds. Here is a golden opportunity for meritorious men in the service to go before the examining board, and if they are passed and commissioned, they will be captains in eighteen months at least. The other regiments of the brigade are nearly as bad off as we are. Such an opportunity for entering the Army, with such a chance for promotion, has never before occurred in its history. Cannot something be done to give us good officers? Can you not, by giving publicity to these facts, aid us in our endeavors? The War Department must wake up, and find some means to fill us up, to officer our seven hundred men as they should be.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, Ga., January 25th, 1864.

IMPERFECT DESCRIPTIVE LISTS.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR:—It is my misfortune to have charge of a General Hospital to which a large proportion of the maimed soldiers of the Army find their way, for the purpose of procuring artificial limbs, and eventually their discharges. It might interest your readers to hear of a right-armed "police party," a left-armed "coal squad," and a detachment of *neg-legged* clerks; but such is not my present purpose.

I wish, through your columns, to call the attention of company commanders to the great injustice which is often done to worthy soldiers by failing to give complete military histories in their descriptive lists. The palpable violation of orders in not furnishing the amount of bounty received and due is almost too common to hope for reformation, but far more annoyance is occasioned by the simple neglect of stating the circumstances under which a soldier was wounded. The fact that his discharge was given him in consequence of injuries received in the line of his duty must be mentioned in his final statements and discharge, or the contrary is presumed to be the case, and his pocket suffers accordingly. No medical officer wants to give the same certificate of disability to a maimed surgeon that is furnished to a bounty-jumper wounded by the Provost-Guard. It is of little use to return such descriptive lists for completion, as weeks or months generally elapse before they come back again. It has never been explained why it takes an official communication ten times as long to reach the Army of the Potomac as a private letter occupies.

Ignorance of their proper duties was once considered the cause of such neglect, but it is hard to believe that in this fourth year of the war any company commander does not know how to make out a descriptive list, yet such must be the fact, for these papers are sent from some of the most distinguished regiments in the Army, signed by a *non-commissioned officer*! Date of enlistment, last paid, bounty, clothing account, and the time and place of wounds received, comprise all that is needed, yet not one in ten is complete. These, with a personal description, are required by the Regulations, and justice to the soldier demands them.

yet every officer having charge of detached soldiers is constantly bothered by the omission of some important item. At this moment over two hundred men, who have lost a limb in the service of their country, are detained in this hospital, kept from their homes and maintained by the Government at great expense, by the careless conduct of their officers who, having sworn to obey the Regulations of the service, now neglect those to whose bravery and devotion they owe their present position and credit. If Nemesis is not dead, many captains ought to suffer sleepless nights because, through their carelessness, faithful soldiers of their command have been deprived of their just dues.

In the name of all mustering officers, all paymasters and all surgeons, I beg for more attention to descriptive lists.

B.

GENERAL ORDERS NO. 289.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR:—I have searched through the columns of the JOURNAL in vain, for some weeks past, for a protest against General Orders No. 289, War Department, A. G. O., dated November 28th, 1864, cutting off commutation of fuel and quarters from officers engaged on courts-martial. I think it full time that some one or more of the many sufferers by this order should make its injustice manifest, and prove the hardship it works, publicly; therefore, I claim your aid in so doing.

Whatever may have been the motives that led to the promulgation of the order, I know not; but that its provisions have been universally pronounced unworthy of the high source from whence they emanated, I do know. I have heard that the lengthened sessions of the SPINOLA Court-Martial, and the heavy expenses incurred thereby to the Government, were the occasion of its issue. Granted that this court prolonged its sessions beyond necessity, and that thereby the Government suffered; is that a reason why hundreds of other and innocent officers should be deprived of dues that have been recognized from time immemorial as not only naturally and justly their due, but almost necessarily so? It is well known to all that in the principal cities of the Union (enumerated in "Regulations") quarters are not furnished to officers therein stationed, but that both fuel and quarters are "commuted" by the Quartermaster's Department. Now what is the effect of General Order No. 289? It deprives all officers, coming under its provisions, of roofs to dwell under and fuel to warm them, or of an equivalent for these in money. The officer is, therefore, compelled, out of his monthly pay, to procure them. These emoluments, which heretofore the Government has always as certainly provided as it has rations or forage, to those entitled, it now, in the midst of a great war, (when the pay it provides is diminished more than a half in value, by a depreciated currency, and the prices of the necessities of life—food, fuel, clothing, servants' hire, and house rent—are augmented outrageously), now the Government sees fit to deprive us of those means of livelihood, which, in the "halcyon days," it never disputed, when they could have been better spared.

There is another and far greater aggravation, flowing from this order, which should, in itself, provoke its rescission. It is this: A large proportion of the officers doing duty on courts-martial in the principal cities are unfit for field service, on account of wounds and diseases contracted therein. They are men who have borne the "burden and heat of the day," with the evidences of their strife and toil forever stamped upon their bodies, to bear witness thereto. Upon such as these it is that General Orders No. 289 falls the hardest. Who thinks that a lieutenant's or captain's pay alone, in a city like New York, in times like these, is sufficient to support him in a manner "becoming an officer and a gentleman?" In the field he lives in tents provided for him, or often under heaven's canopy alone—his food being provided cheaply at Government rates. Even there his pay is insufficient. When the "casualties of war" cut him down in health, or deprive him of limb, and, unfit for further field duty, he is ordered on court-martial, perhaps in New York, or elsewhere, is such a one to be praised, or persecuted, now, in his day of adversity? Shall he be deprived of emoluments never heretofore questioned, and undoubtedly justly his due; or, rather, shall not a benign and paternal Government, recognizing his great services and sacrifices, reward them by augmenting, not depreciating pay, which bills before Congress, this very day declare deficient?

PROTEST.

New York, January 25th, 1865.

ARMY SWEARING.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR:—It is extraordinary the utter disregard that is paid to the First and Second Articles of War in our service. As far as the practical obedience to said articles is concerned, they are to all intents and purposes a dead letter. The degrading and sinful practice of swearing is not confined to the rank and file of the Army. Officers of rank may be heard continually cursing and swearing, both on parades and battalion drill. It is a practice that is shameful and sinful in the highest degree, and should be cried down by every man. The practice of swearing by commissioned officers, I regret to say, is indulged in to a very great extent, and, as a natural consequence of a bad example, the men acquire the same pernicious habit.

I am sorry to say that the chaplains it has been my fortunes to meet in the service, do not in their preaching give the vice of swearing the attention it merits. It is an accepted axiom in all society that "no gentleman will swear." Yet our military officers are gentlemen, and I have never heard as much swearing elsewhere as amongst them. The same results may be attained by a firm and consistent course of discipline and justice with the men of any command, and in a far better manner, than by standing up and cursing them into it. The evil I speak of is not confined to one place, or one set of men; it is, I regret to say, universal in the Army. I have heard it from California to the Atlantic—wherever our soldiers are, there have I heard the quintessence of swearing practiced. Men who never in their lives swore before they left home, after being six months in the Army, swear like troopers. The practice is acquired, like many other vices, by bad example, and should be

cried down publicly, and punished by all the officers of principle. It is fearful to hear men swearing at every second word, this hour, not knowing but in the chances of war, the next hour may be their last.

HELENA, ARKANSAS, January 12, 1865.

A CORRECTION.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR:—In my published report of operations before Charleston, in 1863, there is an error in page 74, where it says "Brigadier-General Seymour was ordered to carry 'Fort Wagner by assault at daybreak on the following morning. The attempt failed.'" It should read, "Brigadier-General Saxton was ordered," &c., &c. General Seymour commanded the second, and not the first, assault on Fort Wagner. Please insert this note in your paper, and oblige,

Your obedient servant,

Q. A. GILLMORE, Major-General.

New York, January 30th, 1865.

ARMY AND NAVY PERSONAL.

MAJOR-General Negley and Brigadier-General Ledlie have resigned from the service.

CAPTAIN MARVINE, late A. A. G. at headquarters of the Fifth corps, has resigned from the service.

BRIGADIER-General Chamberlain and brevet Brigadier-General Dennison, of the Fifth corps, have gone home on sick leave.

LIEUTENANT-Colonel George H. Lyman, Medical Inspector, United States Army, on duty at New York, has been ordered to Boston for duty.

MAJOR Carrington H. Raymond, on the staff of Major-General Augur, has resigned from the service, and will go into business in New York.

CAPTAIN Theodore McGowan, Assistant Adjutant General, is announced as Assistant Judge Advocate of the Department of Washington.

MAJOR A. E. King, formerly of Major-General Rickett's staff, has been announced as Assistant Adjutant General on the staff of Major-General Augur.

CAPTAIN Winslow, late Brigade Quartermaster in the First division, and Captain Hoskins, Brigade Quartermaster, Second division, Fifth corps, have been ordered to Savannah as Post Quartermasters.

ASSISTANT Surgeon E. McClellan, U. S. A., is relieved from duty as Assistant Medical Director, and Surgeon D. W. Hand, U. S. Volunteers, is announced as Assistant Medical Director of the Department of Virginia and North Carolina.

MAJOR-General Thomas W. Egan, with a portion of his staff, is at the Sherman House, Chicago, on his way to Springfield, Illinois, on business connected with the new Army corps under General Hancock. General Egan is yet suffering from a wound received at Petersburg.

MAJOR-General Warren returned to the Army of the Potomac on the 28th ult., after twenty days absence, and has resumed command of the Fifth corps. Captain J. W. Wadsworth, son of the late General Wadsworth, who has been appointed by General Warren one of his additional aids, came with him.

By direction of the President, and upon the recommendation of his commanding general, Colonel John F. Tyler, 1st Infantry, Missouri State Militia, is dishonorably dismissed the service of the United States, for fraudulent conduct in connection with transportation passes, trading in substitutes, and sanctioning the same in employees under his control, he being at the time on duty as Assistant Provost Marshal.

COLONEL Sergeant, Two Hundred and Tenth Pennsylvania regiment, at present commanding Third brigade, Second division, and Colonel Partridge, Sixteenth Michigan regiment, have returned to duty in the Fifth corps. The last named officer, it will be remembered, was very severely wounded in the charge upon the rebel works near Poplar Grove church, at the time Colonel Welch, of the same regiment, was killed.

BRIGADIER-General Rufus Saxton has been assigned to duty as inspector of settlements and plantations in the Department of the South. His duties will consist in providing for the well-being of the freedmen and their location upon the abandoned and confiscated plantations in that department. Commanders of the several military districts have been directed to furnish the necessary military protection within the limits of their respective commands.

By direction of the President, Captain Robert L. Orr, 61st Pennsylvania Volunteers, Assistant Commissary of Musters, Second division, Sixth corps, is dishonorably dismissed the service of the United States, for—whilst in the city of Philadelphia, absent from his command and not in the execution of his office—violating the mustering regulations, by mustering into an advanced grade an officer physically unfit for duty with his regiment, thereby creating a vacancy in the grade of major, into which he, the said Orr, caused and permitted himself to be mustered.

By order of Major-General Ord, Second Lieutenant St. John Davis, 199th Pennsylvania Volunteers, having tendered his resignation, is dismissed the service, with forfeiture of all pay and emoluments, subject to the approval of the President, on the following statement of facts, certified to be correct by the commanding officers of his regiment, brigade and division. Lieutenant Davis enlisted for one year in the 199th regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, receiving large bounties from the general Government and local authorities, and although well knowing that he was unfit for duty as an officer, by incompetency, yet sought for position as such, expecting that as soon as brought into the field his utter worthlessness would insure permission for him to resign, and return to his home with the bounty he had thus swindled the Government out of, and at liberty to again practice the same rascality. Lieutenant Davis has never done a day's duty with his regiment. He has, therefore, no claim to pay, having never earned it. A copy of the order

of dismissal will be endorsed on his discharge, that he and his heirs may not apply for a pension hereafter, on account of the lieutenant's arduous service in the cause.

The following officers are announced as Acting Assistant Inspectors General in the Department of the Gulf, and are authorized to make inspections, and recommend the disposal of unserviceable property, in accordance with Army Regulations and Orders:—Defences of New Orleans, infantry, heavy and light artillery, Lieutenant-Colonel W. D. Smith, 110th New York Volunteer infantry; Captain Fred. H. Mann, 86th U. S. Colored infantry; cavalry, Second Lieutenant W. B. Bragg, 1st Louisiana Volunteer cavalry. Baton Rouge, Port Hudson and Morganza, infantry, heavy and light artillery, Colonel S. M. Quincy, 73d U. S. Colored infantry. Port Hudson and Morganza, cavalry, Captain C. C. Chesborough, company B, 14th New York cavalry. Baton Rouge, cavalry, Major J. E. Cowan, 1st Louisiana Volunteer cavalry. District Lafourche, infantry, heavy and light artillery, Major Geo. Baldy, 65th U. S. Colored infantry; cavalry, Captain W. A. James, 3d Rhode Island cavalry. U. S. forces at Mobile Bay, infantry, heavy and light artillery, Captain W. B. Wright, 25th U. S. Colored infantry; cavalry, Lieutenant J. T. Turner, 3d Maryland cavalry. Brazos Santiago, Captain W. C. Durkee, 62d U. S. Colored infantry. District West Florida, infantry, heavy and light artillery, Captain H. K. Southwick, 11th U. S. Colored heavy artillery; cavalry, Major E. Huttonson, 2d Maine cavalry. District Key West and Dry Tortugas, Captain A. A. Fellows, 110th New York Volunteer infantry.

OBITUARY.

COLONEL KITCHING, SIXTH NEW YORK ARTILLERY.

No more painful task can be imposed upon a writer than that of recording the services and announcing to his brother officers the death of one with whom, in military service and in private friendship, he had long been intimate. Colonel KITCHING, at the time of the wound which occasioned his death in command of a provisional division with the Army of General SHERIDAN, was one of these brilliant young citizen soldiers, fired by pure Christian patriotism, who have been the strength and glory of the North in the righteous struggle now happily so near its close. During the winter of 1860, Colonel KITCHING was in Richmond for the benefit of his health, he having been, for some winters, suffering from lung complaint. He here witnessed the suicidal madness which plunged Virginia, almost uninterested in the causes which produced secession in more Southern States, into a war against the Union she had, in her early days done so much to found, and of which she was doomed to bear the brunt, and from it to reap a fearful harvest of desolation and misery. His earnest outspokenness necessitated his quitting Richmond even before the passing of the secession ordinance, and the first cavalry regiment raised in New York (the Lincoln cavalry) saw him enlisted as a private in its ranks. On the departure of this regiment for the seat of war, a violent attack of dysentery prevented him proceeding with it. He was transferred to the Second New York Artillery, in which he was soon promoted to a captaincy, and with his regiment moved, in November, 1861, to the works in front of Alexandria. Here he gave full promise of what might be expected of him in higher and more responsible positions, if called upon to occupy them—a painstaking attention to the minutest details of his duty, which made every soldier in his command see that however well he might perform the task allotted to him, his Captain had much more to do, and did that much more better than he could possibly perform his duty—a determination not to be contented with a mere knowledge of the details of his immediate sphere, but to know all that an accomplished and properly educated soldier should know, as far as time and opportunity permitted him. Fortification, as far as it could be learned from books and from the works around him; artillery, not only in its drill but in its theory, and its application to all the actual contingencies of war, and the general disposition of troops with reference to ground, as exemplified in the reviews and drills of FRANKLIN'S and SUMNER'S divisions, under such able subordinates as KEARNEY, HOWARD, FRENCH, SLOCUM, who have since distinguished themselves in many well-fought fields. When the Army of the Potomac embarked for the Peninsula he volunteered to act as a Second Lieutenant to Battery D, Second Regular Artillery, then under command of Lieutenant URROX, now a brevet Major-General, an officer who has distinguished himself in every field from the first battle of Bull Run—where he acted as aide-de-camp to General TYLER—to the present day. In this capacity Colonel KITCHING served during the Peninsular campaign in every action in which the Sixth corps was engaged. At the battle of Charles City Cross Roads he commanded the rear section, and though he early received a severe contusion of the chest from a piece of shell, he remained in command of his section and successfully covered the retreat. While at Harrison's Landing, family affairs imperatively demanded that he should quit the field; but no sooner was the contingency passed than he was again in service as Lieutenant-Colonel of the 135th New York Volunteers—afterwards the Sixth New York Artillery—to the Colonelcy of which regiment he succeeded on the promotion of Colonel MORRIS to a Brigadier-Generalship, in the spring of 1863. From that time to the present he was almost always in command of a brigade, and lately of a provisional division. His conduct in the repulse of Ewell's attack upon our trains in the Wilderness, on the 19th of May, called for the special commendation of General MEADE in a general order, in which he states that the "raw troops" under his command and that of General E. O. TYLER "will henceforward be relied upon as were the tried veterans of the Second and Fifth corps at the same time engaged."

This magnificent but well-earned compliment does not exceed many lying before us, sent to him by Generals MORRIS, WOOD, FRENCH and WARREN, under whom he served. The latter, no mean judge, says, October 23, 1864:—"I know no one whom I would prefer to him to command a brigade, and I have no doubt his ability would soon secure him a higher command."

In the battle of Cedar Creek, on the morning of the 19th of October, his division bore the brunt of EARLY'S brilliant and temporarily successful attack. He did all that man could do to make a stand against the overwhelming forces opposed to him. He was wounded in the ankle, but thought so little of the wound that he rode four miles from the field; but his constitution was naturally far from strong, and erysipelas setting in, a second operation became necessary, under which he died, at the residence of his father, Mr. JOHN B. KITCHING, at Dobbs' Ferry, on the 11th of December, 1864.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editor of this JOURNAL will always be glad to receive from officers in the two services, correspondence and general communications of a character suited to its columns. It is necessary that the name of the writer should, in all cases, accompany his communications, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Officers are especially requested to give us early notification of all personal matters of general interest; of the movements of vessels of casualties among officers; and military and naval events.

The Editor will, at all times, be pleased to respond, in these columns, to enquiries in regard to tactical and other matters.

The subscription price of THE ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL is SIX DOLLARS a year, or THREE DOLLARS for six months, invariably in advance. Remittances may be made in United States funds, or Quartermaster's, Paymaster's or other drafts which should be made payable to the order of the Proprietor, W. O. Church.

Subscribers who fail to receive their paper promptly, will please give immediate notice of the fact.

Subscribers ordering the address of their paper to be changed, should be careful to give their previous address.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion, in communications addressed to the JOURNAL.

The postage on the JOURNAL is twenty-five cents a year, payable quarterly in advance, at the office where received.

All communications should be addressed to the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL, New York.

BOUND VOLUMES OF THE JOURNAL.

The Publisher of the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL has hitherto been unable to meet the large and unexpected demand for the first bound volume of the paper. To supply this demand it became necessary to stereotype the greater part of the numbers for 1863 and '64. This caused much vexatious delay in responding to orders for the bound volumes. Now, however, the work of stereotyping has been completed and a full supply of the first volume, handsomely bound in cloth, has been obtained. The price of this volume bound in cloth is \$7 50; in half morocco \$10. Gentlemen in the Army, who wish the volume sent to them by express, should enclose the amount of the express charges, which average about \$1 00, as these are required by the companies to be paid in advance.

U. S. ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1865.

WAR AND PEACE.

THE presence of Peace Commissioners from Richmond within our lines is an established fact. The powers they possess, the terms they propose, are matters of which the public know but little. The time is favorable to review the real status of both parties. The conduct of the negotiations between Mr. SEWARD and Mr. STEPHENS will be very materially influenced by two points—the military position as seen by ourselves and by the South, and the condition of public opinion here and there. No one is more sensitive to public opinion, and no one has a more correct appreciation of its importance, than Mr. LINCOLN. His whole course shows a desire to do what he believes to be right, just at the time when public opinion sustains him most vigorously. That opinion here will depend mainly upon the amount of real knowledge of our military position possessed by the people, and especially by those whose wealth, talents or political position gives them a wide-spread and effective influence, and enables them to express with some show of authority what public opinion is.

We have already reviewed the military position, which, it may be added, has not materially changed since our last issue. We regard GRANT and LEE as about equal in strength, considering the tasks imposed upon each. Each, by position, is in a condition to resist all possible aggression; and neither, therefore, is prepared to make any vigorous and decisive aggressive movement with reasonable chance of success. We consider THOMAS and HOOD to be necessarily out of the sphere of present operations. The former, because he has been wisely depleted in order to reinforce SHERMAN; the latter, because of his immense losses in men and material during his failure in Tennessee. The key of the position, the hopes of the future, we considered to be with SHERMAN, who, unopposed by any organized force capable of confronting him with probability of success, threatens so many important points in the enemy's territory, that concentration to oppose him must mean the abandonment of positions of considerable importance to us. We showed that whatever may be the detailed route which he might pursue, his ultimate object could only be Richmond—at present the point on which the whole military and political existence of the Confederacy hangs. SHERMAN's advance upon Richmond, probably, will be a matter of months—three to six months being the margin within which we think it possible, and beyond which we do not think it will extend. The danger to SHERMAN, in a military point of view, will commence when he has advanced

sufficiently to have adopted Wilmington as a base. This can hardly happen much before the usual time of opening a spring campaign, when the roads are in a condition to move in Virginia. LEE, by evacuating Petersburg, and contracting his lines round Richmond, or—if the emergency shall have proved great enough, and the force at his disposal too meagre to justify even leaving a small garrison in Richmond—by abandoning his capital altogether—might endeavor to fall upon SHERMAN with superior forces. If he succeeded in defeating him, he could gather up the scattered garrisons of Augusta, Charleston and Wilmington, and would probably outnumber GRANT and temporarily restore the condition of affairs to a more equal balance. If SHERMAN, finding himself outnumbered, should manoeuvre to avoid battle, and to connect himself with GRANT, it would be nearly impossible to compel him to fight; but he might be forced to leave the road open to the West. A drawn battle would give the same alternative to LEE. This would insure us Virginia and the Carolinas, but would transfer the conflict to western Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee, where our long line of communications places us at every disadvantage, and where, with determination, a prolonged resistance, exhausting to both parties, would be the result. This is the utmost which we think the enemy's military possibilities permit him to accomplish.

It is certain that, provided proper guarantees for the preservation of the Union were secured, and the extinction of slavery by the means laid down in the Constitution for its own amendment were certainly established, so that thereby the main cause of disunion would be destroyed, a vast majority of the people of the North would be in favor of all honorable propositions which would secure peace. The people are neither "copperheads" nor ultra radicals, and would willingly see this war terminated, provided the sole end for which it was undertaken, the preservation of the Union, were secured in a way to guarantee future peace under the Union. This result can only be achieved by the present or proximate removal of the great incentive to disunion—slavery.

It is probable that the voice and sentiment of the people will find utterance in this grand discussion. Let us hope that firmness with moderation will mark the course of those delegated on our part to listen to the propositions of the Peace Commissioners, not only at this time, but at all future times. That the Rebel Government should permit Peace Commissioners to come within our lines in any way, directly from Richmond, and through the lines of their main Army—that such men as STEPHENS, HUNTER, and CAMPBELL should accept such mission—could only result from a real desire to make peace on the part of some definite and important power at the South. Whether this powerful element is represented by DAVIS or LEE, we do not know; but it is very clear that peace on terms very different from those which the enemy has hitherto spoken about is possible. This result is due entirely to the military aspect of Confederate affairs, and to the change it has wrought upon public opinion in the South. The willingness of the insurgents to continue negotiations will be determined by the continuance of that military condition; and the terms they propose or are willing to accede to will vary and adjust themselves with the progress of our arms. No armistice must, therefore, be permitted or thought of. The preparations for the spring campaign should proceed with increased vigor, and the more rapid and successful the onward march of SHERMAN, the more certain are we of peace.

THE PARROTT GUNS.

THE bursting of the 100-pounder Parrotts in the bombardment of Fort Fisher, and the bursting of both these and the larger calibres in the bombardment of Charleston, completes the list of failures in the construction of heavy rifled guns. The principles upon which alone strength can be imparted to a tube subjected to an internal strain, are well known. The practical carrying out of those principles has foiled the best mechanics in this country and in England; and the Parrott gun, under severe test, has proved to be not very much superior to the Armstrong and the Whitworth,—yet, manufactured at much less than one-half the cost, it has stood greater practical tests than either of these other guns, and is the nearest approach yet made to a correct carrying out of the principles of construction therein involved.

The theory in this matter is simple. Suppose the tube or gun within which a charge of powder is exploded to consist of a series of tubes, say one-tenth of an inch each in thickness, each tube from the centre will be expanded in a greater degree than the one next outside it, and so on, until there arrives very rapidly a point at which the strain upon the outer ring is so slight as not practically to add to the strength of the inner rings. The maximum power of resistance of a cast-iron gun, of whatever thickness, is therefore limited to the resisting power of its inner thickness of metal to a tensile strain.

The Rodman gun, the strongest cast-iron gun in use, owes its strength to its peculiar system of casting, by which the inner portion of the gun has the maximum strength which it is possible to give to cast-iron. This is effected by casting the gun on an iron core, through which ice-water is constantly flowing. Charcoal fires are built round the gun at the outside, and by these means the cooling of the metal from the inside to the outside is regulated in such a manner as to give a maximum strength to the internal layers of the gun, and a uniform texture and density throughout.

To obtain the great strength required for large rifled guns, ARMSTRONG, WHITWORTH, BLAKELY, PARROTT and others have tried different adaptations of the same principle, that of increasing the power of the inner tube to resist expansion by compressing on it one or more tubes, so that some of the explosive or expanding force is used in overcoming the contracting force of the outer ring, before the ordinary strain upon the inner ring comes into play. The simplest application of this principle in the Parrott gun, in which one wrought-iron ring of uniform thickness is shrunk on the cast-iron gun at the breech, where the greatest strain takes place.

One difficulty of all these guns is, that the coil or tubular system gives no additional strength against that portion of the force of the gunpowder acting directly against the breech in a line with the axis of the gun. Hence, both Armstrong and Parrott frequently burst by blowing out the breech, although the former, in consequence of being a complicated structure, is much more liable to an accident of this class than the latter, which is homogeneous.

Another difficulty, and probably the most serious one, in the carrying out of this principle, is that iron, cast or wrought, when subjected to a permanent strain, or to a succession of strains, as in a railroad bridge or a gun repeatedly fired, which are greater than one-eighth or one-sixth of the breaking weight of the metal, loses its elasticity, and, instead of returning to its original form and strength after it is relieved from each strain, takes a permanent set, and loses its elasticity and its strength. Hence, the wearing out of a gun by repeated discharges. In the English service, as far as possible, a registry of the number of rounds fired from each gun is kept, and, after a certain number of rounds, the gun is considered to be practically an unserviceable gun. From this cause, the outer rings of the guns are liable also to become permanently strained, and thus to cease exercising the compressible strain upon the inner tube, which is their object. The details of the bursting of those guns in front of Charleston, in which the reinforce (or wrought-iron ring) remained upon the forward part of the gun, while the breech, with as much of the inner tube as was in rear of the vent, was blown backward, seems to show that this was the case, and the expansion greatest just where the explosive force was most powerful. If this reasoning be correct, the possibility of carrying out successfully the principles well known to govern the strength of tubes under pressure of this kind, is very much increased.

The Committee appointed by the Ordnance Bureau of the Navy Department appear from their report to be of opinion that the chief cause of the bursting of the heavy guns is the bursting of the shells in the guns. Mr. PARROTT himself is of this opinion, and many facts are mentioned by the Committee which seem to support their view. It appears that asphaltum coating obviates this difficulty, and that it is therefore practically a difficulty of the past, and not of the present, except in so far as the supply of ammunition on vessels too far from dépôts to be resupplied is concerned.

The Committee recommend a series of experiments—that three 100-pounders, made as similar as possible, be fired as nearly under similar circumstances as possible, one with old pattern shells, one with shells

loaded with sand, and one with asphaltum-coated shells—the guns not to be cast on RODMAN's principle, as there are but few such guns in the Navy, five only having been issued up to date.

These recommendations are very good, so far as they go; but they are very far from grasping the subject in a comprehensive way. The only result of them can be to prove what amount of injury is due to the bursting of shells in the gun, and they will only show this by one experiment. The object of the experiments should be rather to ascertain how much resisting power can be obtained by the Parrott system with efficient projectiles.

We should therefore suggest, in order to get a more accurate result,

1st. That two guns should be fired, instead of one, under each of the above conditions: A. a. with the old shells, B. b. with sand-loaded shells, C. c. with asphaltum-coated shells. 2d. That two guns cast on the Rodman principle be fired with sand-filled shells, D. d., the reinforce to be put on in the ordinary way. 3d. That two other guns, E. e., cast on the Rodman principle, have the band put on as suggested in General GILLMORE's report, and be also fired with sand-filled shells. A comparison of the results obtained from A. a. and C. c. will show the advantage of asphaltum-coated projectiles over ordinary ones. The comparison of both these results with those obtained in B. b., will show how much either of these falls short of the best possible projectile. And the comparison of the results with B. b., D. d. and E. e., will show what advantages are obtained by the Rodman system of casting, and whether any beneficial results are to be obtained by General GILLMORE's proposed method of attaching the reinforce.

All these guns should be fired to bursting. At the end of every tenth round, the guns should be cleaned and examined both by mirror and searcher, and an accurate impression of the vent, and of any cracks perceived by the searcher should be taken. All cases of shells bursting in the gun would of course be noted, and special examination of the gun made after such accident. The guns ought not to be cast with any greater care than can be given to guns manufactured on the large scale required for service.

As the Army is as much interested in the result of these experiments as the Navy, we should like to see General GILLMORE and General HUNT, the able Chief of Artillery of the Army of the Potomac, associated with Commodore MISSROON and Commodore HITCHCOCK in conducting and reporting upon these experiments.

As the Parrott is by far the cheapest rifle gun yet in practical use, it is sincerely to be hoped that the results of these experiments will be to show that the Parrott gun may be so improved as to be a serviceable heavy rifled gun.

GENERAL BUTLER has fulfilled his orders to the letter, at all events, and has emphatically "reported at Lowell." His recent speech at that point betokens several things: of which one is, that he will never again be permitted to assume a military position; and another, that even he himself never expects to do so. No man ever contemplating military service requiring him to command and to obey, would be likely to utter a speech so strongly savoring of insubordination. With characteristic audacity, finding that his tenure with the Army was only by slender threads, he has cut his fragile moorings with his own hand, and swung off into an independent career. "First in a village rather than second in Rome" appears to animate him. His military campaigns are over, but he may yet essay campaigns personal and political. For the former, he would find his "objective" in General GRANT, whom he already attacks for building "that charnel-house of useless dead in the mire before Petersburg." For the latter, he has the negro question; and, in the chess of politics, BUTLER evidently proposes to play always with the black pieces.

We do not desire to interfere with these or any other little plans for personal progress which General BUTLER's active spirit may have concocted. But we do object always and everywhere to manifestations of military insubordination like those evinced in his Lowell speech. An officer who enters the Army gives up some of that privilege of broad and minute criticism which civil life in a free country permits. For a subordinate to criticize in public speeches the

plans, the orders, and the achievements of his superior, in such a way as to provoke distrust in the latter's ability, is to undermine all discipline. Some points which General BUTLER makes in his speech are obviously true; some others have an air of verity about them which inclines us to believe they may be true. But we hold that the truth of a story does not always excuse its public utterance. To sanction General BUTLER's course would be to throw up all military discipline and respect. And, if a second reason for condemning it be needed, it may be found in the exigencies of the times, which demand other means of securing justice than that of seeking it before popular tribunals in unwise disclosures. Suppose, for a moment, that the host of generals who have been transferred or temporarily relieved from high commands, from the days of McDOWELL to the present, had carried their appeal to print or platform! But no. Even those officers whose retirement from command General BUTLER has himself procured did not seek, in public orations, at least, to destroy his reputation. They bided their time; and one of them, ere the lapse of a week, will show that his time of probation is happily over.

Several points in General BUTLER's speech deserve criticism. But perhaps it is enough to say that he has persistently reduced the whole controversy to a simple question of veracity between himself and General GRANT on the one hand, and himself and Admiral PORTER on the other. It is probable, also, this, in effect, will be just the point at which, in the presence of more vital matters than personal quarrels, the country will be disposed to let the matter rest—on this simple question of veracity between these high officers. Their words cannot all be true. In one of these contentions General BUTLER will probably enjoy the advantage of being the only disputant, for General GRANT will not be likely to reply. Admiral PORTER would be more disposed, perhaps, to take up the gauntlet. General BUTLER's frequent and rather exasperating puns upon the Admiral's name (forgetful as the former was of the proverb of people in glass houses) will not tend to soothe the latter's feelings. But it must be confessed that Admiral PORTER did not cloak his own opinions of the General much when he wrote to the Navy Department of BUTLER's Report upon Fort Fisher: "To use the mildest terms I can, I pronounce the whole report a tissue of misstatements from beginning to end, scarcely equalled by the misstatements made regarding the lieutenant-general."

In this grave and unpleasant matter, there is one thing which provokes a smile—the treatment of the unfortunate powder-boat. Like the men in the play who repeat "My Penelope Ann! no, sir, your Penelope Ann," and insist on giving each other the full right and title to the female in question, these three officers are disposed to confer each on the other, all the glory of the famous gunpowder explosion. "My powder-boat! no, sir, your powder-boat," says BUTLER in turn to both GRANT and PORTER, rather indifferent as to which of them receives the honor, provided he gets rid of it—but rather anxious, on the whole, to fix it on both of them. These latter, in turn, have expressly disowned the hapless offspring, and do not hesitate to connect its paternity with General BUTLER.

SUNDRY politicians seem to be already manoeuvring to seize the credit of that peace which the arms of the Republic are likely to conquer. This "flank movement" is the more impudent when the history of the Rebellion is considered. For three years there was a constant running fire on the part of some of our wise legislators, against professional military skill. "West Point" we were continually told, "has been the curse of the country, and will yet ruin it." If a victory quieted the clamor for a moment, it broke out again on a repulse. The politicians pushed their old boon companions, the people of their guild, into all possible military position. They interfered often with military plans. They decided the question of supplies and reinforcements, and regulated the size of drafts. They sometimes succeeded in thwarting military plans, and in snatching away success in the moment of its fruition. They endeavored to get personal advantage out of their relation with this or that officer in the field. Half of them strove to be the parasites, the other half the patrons, of military men, And, to put it into a word, one great trouble in the

first years of the war, was the endeavor in some quarters to lobby it through, rather than to fight it through.

But the country came, at last, to rely upon professional skill and experience. By the sheer force of circumstances, by the controlling exigencies of the times, by the military necessities of the war, military men were at length permitted to shoulder it, and carry it through. They struggled to the top of those contesting for the honor of saving the runaway Nation, and they seized the reins. At this moment it is our GRANTS and SHERMANS who control affairs; and district politicians are of minor consequence. Having waded beyond their depth, these latter, affrighted, had enough to do to save themselves. They bided their time. Now, at length, they feel a footing again. The end of the Rebellion approaches, and they will be alert to take part in the obsequies.

In the excellent story called Great Expectations, it will be remembered that, after the much-suffering hero has arrived at bright prospects, Mr. PUMBLECHOOK particularly requests the privilege of going down to posterity in connection with Pip, as "his first benefactor and the author of his fortunes." These PUMBLECHOOK politicians, seeing the country, in spite of their clumsy interference in its affairs, obstinately heading for the haven of prosperity again, are now struggling to be recognized as the authors of its fortunes. Authors of a great share of its ill-fortunes they might be called. For, although we are not of those who hold that the war could have been stopped at its outset by applying the brake of lenitive speeches, yet the portentous magnitude it now assumes might never have been developed, could statesmen have sprung up for us equal to the times.

Outmanoeuvred at every point by their shrewd Southren adversaries, and sometimes handled like wax, maladroit in their efforts to save the country, with no foresight, with no broad view of the needs of the hour, and no capacity to cast the horoscope for the future, led about by momentary excitement, like caucuses in New York or mobs in Baltimore, the majority of the politicians of this epoch in American history may pray fervently, as the greatest of boons, that their names may be forgotten. It is not indeed, that they were inferior to those predecessors in public affairs whose places they filled, but that the times were greater; and they became little by comparison. Woe to the public man who, "highly respectable" in his small way, in peaceful times, finds a great storm bursting upon him, and he a pitiful dwarf, where the might of a giant is needed! This great crisis in the country's history, which brought out at least a few great captains, unknown before, has developed no new statesman whose mark will remain a century. So singular a sterility is hardly exemplified in history, considering the intellectual activity of the times and the magnitude of the national war.

Not to go into the annals of Europe for contrasts, compare our few great statesmen with the bright galaxy which adorned the latter quarter of the last century; and then reflect that the present is a contest in ideas not inferior to the War of Independence. It would be pleasant to see great men rising in the councils of State, exhibiting the matchless magnanimity of GRANT, who took upon himself the heaviest part of the task of subduing the Rebellion, and was content to suffer continuous repulse, if only the cause of the Union elsewhere under his subordinate in rank, could be triumphant. Or, to discover in our politics something analogous to the genius and soldierly skill of SHERMAN, which are so fast solving the problem of the Rebellion.

We understand that Colonel GEORGE D. RUGGLES, Major and A. A. G. in the Regular Army, and additional A. D. C. in the volunteer force, has been appointed Adjutant-General of the Army of the Potomac, in place of Brigadier-General SETH WILLIAMS, recently appointed Inspector-General on the staff of General GRANT.

MAJOR-General Q. A. GILLMORE has been appointed to the command of the Department of the South, vice Major-General FOSTER, who comes North on a furlough, which is rendered necessary by disability arising from a troublesome old wound.

A WASHINGTON telegram of January 28 says:—"A special telegram, dated Wilmington, January 19, says that the Tallahassee, alias Ouatee, was captured last night in attempting to run in at New Inlet. The Navy Department has no information confirming the report. A telegram from Wilmington reports the capture of the steamer Tallahassee at New Inlet on the 18th."

FIFTH CORPS BREVETS.

The following is a list of officers recently brevetted in the Fifth Army Corps, Army of the Potomac:

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY CORPS.

Lieutenant-Colonel Fred. T. Locke, A.A.G., U.S.V., to be brevet Colonel U.S.V.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. C. Bankhead, A.I.G., U.S.V., to be brevet Colonel U.S.V.

Major W. A. Roebeling, A.D.C., U.S.V., to be brevet Lieutenant-Colonel U.S.V.

Captain D. L. Smith, A.C.U.S., U.S.V., to be brevet Major U.S.V.

Captain W. T. Gentry, C.M., 17th Infantry, to be brevet Major U.S.A.

Brigadier-General S. W. Crawford, U.S.V., to be brevet Major-General U.S.V.

Brigadier-General C. Griffin, U.S.V., to be brevet Major-General U.S.V.

Brigadier-General R. B. Ayres, U.S.V., to be brevet Major-General U.S.V.

Colonel C. S. Wainwright, 1st New York Artillery, to be brevet Brigadier-General U.S.V.

Colonel Fred. Winterop, 5th New York Veteran Vols., to be brevet Brigadier-General U.S.V.

Colonel A. W. Denison, 8th Maryland Vols., to be brevet Brigadier-General U.S.V.

Colonel J. Gwyn, 118th Pennsylvania Vols., to be brevet Brigadier-General U.S.V.

Colonel E. M. Gregory, 91st Pennsylvania Vols., to be brevet Brigadier-General U.S.V.

Colonel H. G. Sikel, 193th Pennsylvania Vols., to be brevet Brigadier-General U.S.V.

Colonel A. L. Pearson, 155th Pennsylvania Vols., to be brevet Brigadier-General U.S.V.

Colonel H. A. Morrow, 21st Michigan Vols., to be brevet Brigadier-General U.S.V.

Colonel R. Coulter, 11th Pennsylvania Vols., to be brevet Brigadier-General U.S.V.

Colonel C. Wheelock, 97th New York Vols., to be brevet Brigadier-General U.S.V.

Colonel J. W. Hofmann, 56th Pennsylvania Vols., to be brevet Brigadier-General U.S.V.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. P. Herring, 118th Pennsylvania Vols., to be brevet Colonel U.S.V.

Lieutenant-Colonel B. F. Partridge, 16th Michigan Vols., to be brevet Colonel U.S.V.

Lieutenant-Colonel I. C. Edmonds, 32d Massachusetts Vols., to be brevet Colonel U.S.V.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. Ewing, 159th Pennsylvania Vols., to be brevet Colonel U.S.V.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. E. La Motte, 4th Delaware Vols., to be brevet Colonel U.S.V.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. Patten, 190th Pennsylvania Vols., to be brevet Colonel U.S.V.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. B. Osborne, 56th Pennsylvania Vols., to be brevet Colonel U.S.V.

Major R. H. Fitzhugh, 1st New York Artillery, to be brevet Lieutenant-Colonel U.S.V.

Major Ellis Spear, 20th Maine Vols., to be brevet Lieutenant-Colonel U.S.V.

Major H. O'Neill, 118th Pennsylvania Vols., to be brevet Lieutenant-Colonel U.S.V.

Major J. A. Cunningham, 32d Massachusetts Vols., to be brevet Lieutenant-Colonel U.S.V.

Major W. O. Colla, 33d Pennsylvania Vols., to be brevet Major U.S.V.

Major M. B. Gist, 4th Delaware Vols., to be brevet Lieutenant-Colonel U.S.V.

Major D. B. Dalley, 6th Wisconsin Vols., to be brevet Lieutenant-Colonel U.S.V.

Major H. Richardson, 7th Wisconsin Vols., to be brevet Lieutenant-Colonel U.S.V.

Captain J. S. Conrad, 2d United States Infantry, to be brevet Major and Lieutenant-Colonel U.S.A.

Captain G. H. McLoughlin, 2d United States Infantry, to be brevet Major U.S.A.

Captain F. M. Cooley, 11th United States Infantry, to be brevet Major and Lieutenant-Colonel U.S.A.

Captain J. M. Cutts, Jr., 11th United States Infantry, to be brevet Major U.S.A.

Captain J. S. Fletcher, Jr., 11th United States Infantry, to be brevet Major and Lieutenant-Colonel U.S.A.

Captain T. M. Anderson, 12th United States Infantry, to be brevet Major and Lieutenant-Colonel U.S.A.

Captain T. S. Dunn, 12th United States Infantry, to be brevet Major U.S.A.

Captain P. W. Stanhope, 12th United States Infantry, to be brevet Major U.S.A.

Captain C. L. King, 12th United States Infantry, to be brevet Major and Lieutenant-Colonel U.S.A.

Captain H. C. Morgan, 12th United States Infantry, to be brevet Major and Lieutenant-Colonel U.S.A.

Captain S. Prentice, 12th United States Infantry, to be brevet Major U.S.A.

Captain E. McKee, Hudson, 14th United States Infantry, to be brevet Major U.S.A.

Captain E. McKibben, 14th United States Infantry, to be brevet Major and Lieutenant-Colonel U.S.A.

Captain H. K. Thatcher, 14th United States Infantry, to be brevet Major U.S.A.

Captain G. Ilgee, 14th United States Infantry, to be brevet Major and Lieutenant-Colonel U.S.A.

Captain R. F. O'Brien, 14th United States Infantry, to be brevet Major and Lieutenant-Colonel U.S.A.

Captain J. F. Miller, 14th United States Infantry, to be brevet Major U.S.A.

Captain Drake De Kay, 14th United States Infantry, to be brevet Major and Lieutenant-Colonel U.S.A.

Captain G. K. Brady, 14th United States Infantry, to be brevet Major U.S.A.

Captain J. F. Wales, 17th United States Infantry, to be brevet Major U.S.A.

Captain J. F. Grimes, 17th United States Infantry, to be brevet Major U.S.A.

Captain N. Prime, 17th United States Infantry, to be brevet Major U.S.A.

Captain W. W. Swan, 17th United States Infantry, to be brevet Major U.S.A.

Captain G. H. Weir, C.S., U.S.V., to be brevet Major U.S.V.

Captain C. E. Mink, 1st New York Artillery, to be brevet Major U.S.V.

Captain G. Brock, 1st New York Artillery, to be brevet Major U.S.V.

Captain C. A. Phillips, E, Massachusetts Artillery, to be brevet Major U.S.V.

Captain P. Hart, 15th New York Independent, to be brevet Major U.S.V.

Captain J. Bigelow, 9th Massachusetts, to be brevet Major U.S.V.

Captain G. Lockley, 1st Michigan Vols., to be brevet Major U.S.V.

Captain A. H. Merritt, 1st Michigan Vols., to be brevet Major U.S.V.

Captain W. H. Frey, 1st Michigan Vols., to be brevet Captain U.S.V.

Captain C. W. Carrick, 1st Michigan Vols., to be brevet Captain U.S.V.

Captain C. B. Van Valer, 1st Michigan Vols., to be brevet Captain U.S.V.

Captain A. W. Clark, 20th Maine Vols., to be brevet Major U.S.V.

Captain J. B. Fitch, 20th Maine Vols., to be brevet Major U.S.V.

Captain U. G. Morrill, 20th Maine Vols., to be brevet Major U.S.V.

Captain H. L. Prince, 20th Maine Vols., to be brevet Captain U.S.V.

Captain J. B. Wilson, 118th Pennsylvania Vols., to be brevet Major U.S.V.

Captain A. H. Walters, 118th Pennsylvania Vols., to be brevet Major U.S.V.

Captain J. Ashbrook, 118th Pennsylvania Vols., to be brevet Major U.S.V.

Captain I. M. Belcher, 16th Michigan Vols., to be brevet Major U.S.V.

Captain G. K. Kelets, 16th Michigan Vols., to be brevet Captain U.S.V.

Captain J. F. Casner, 91st Pennsylvania Vols., to be brevet Captain U.S.V.

Captain R. Hamilton, 32d Massachusetts Vols., to be brevet Major U.S.V.

Captain D. H. Kent, 4th Delaware Vols., to be brevet Major U.S.V.

Captain H. Gause, 4th Delaware Vols., to be brevet Major U.S.V.

Captain N. B. Kinsey, 190th Pennsylvania Vols., to be brevet Major U.S.V.

Captain T. E. Carter, 187th Pennsylvania Vols., to be brevet Major U.S.V.

First Lieutenant W. West, 2d United States Infantry, to be brevet Captain U.S.A.

First Lieutenant W. Falck, 2d United States Infantry, to be brevet Captain U.S.A.

First Lieutenant R. Davis, 2d United States Infantry, to be brevet Captain U.S.A.

First Lieutenant T. Schwan, 10th United States Infantry, to be brevet Captain U.S.A.

First Lieutenant T. H. French, 10th United States Infantry, to be brevet Captain U.S.A.

First Lieutenant R. B. Smith, 11th United States Infantry, to be brevet Captain U.S.A.

First Lieutenant E. A. Ellsworth, 11th United States Infantry, to be brevet Captain U.S.A.

First Lieutenant J. A. Patterson, 11th United States Infantry, to be brevet Captain U.S.A.

First Lieutenant D. Hazard, 11th United States Infantry, to be brevet Captain U.S.A.

First Lieutenant M. H. Stacey, 12th United States Infantry, to be brevet Captain U.S.A.

First Lieutenant E. Miles, 12th United States Infantry, to be brevet Captain U.S.A.

First Lieutenant H. C. Egbert, 12th United States Infantry, to be brevet Captain and Major U.S.A.

First Lieutenant E. M. Coates, 12th United States Infantry, to be brevet Captain U.S.A.

First Lieutenant R. H. Pond, 12th United States Infantry, to be brevet Captain U.S.A.

First Lieutenant A. Thieman, 12th United States Infantry, to be brevet Captain and Major U.S.A.

First Lieutenant M. Earle, 12th United States Infantry, to be brevet Captain U.S.A.

First Lieutenant E. H. Liscum, 12th United States Infantry, to be brevet Captain U.S.A.

First Lieutenant J. Jackson, 12th United States Infantry, to be brevet Captain and Major U.S.A.

First Lieutenant T. L. Alston, 12th United States Infantry, to be brevet Captain U.S.A.

First Lieutenant J. W. Weir, 14th United States Infantry, to be brevet Captain U.S.A.

First Lieutenant F. W. Perry, 14th United States Infantry, to be brevet Captain and Major U.S.A.

First Lieutenant G. L. Choisy, 14th United States Infantry, to be brevet Captain and Major U.S.A.

First Lieutenant A. H. Bainbridge, 14th United States Infantry, to be brevet Captain U.S.A.

First Lieutenant H. A. Swartwout, 17th United States Infantry, to be brevet Captain and Major U.S.A.

First Lieutenant J. B. Parke, 17th United States Infantry, to be brevet Captain and Major U.S.A.

First Lieutenant J. S. Emerson, 17th United States Infantry, to be brevet Captain U.S.A.

First Lieutenant J. H. Bradford, 17th United States Infantry, to be brevet Captain U.S.A.

First Lieutenant L. J. Richardson, 1st New York Artillery, to be brevet Captain U.S.V.

First Lieutenant W. E. Van Reed, 5th United States Artillery, to be brevet Captain U.S.A.

First Lieutenant J. Stewart, 4th United States Artillery, to be brevet Captain U.S.A.

First Lieutenant B. F. Rittenhouse, 5th United States Artillery, to be brevet Captain U.S.A.

First Lieutenant L. C. Bartlett, A.D.C., 121st New York Vols., to be brevet Captain U.S.V.

First Lieutenant and Adjutant A. E. Donnel, 20th Maine Vols., to be brevet Captain U.S.V.

First Lieutenant M. C. Sanborn, 20th Maine Vols., to be brevet Captain U.S.V.

First Lieutenant A. E. Fernald, 20th Maine Vols., to be brevet Captain U.S.V.

First Lieutenant and Adjutant C. N. Hand, 118th Pennsylvania Vols., to be brevet Captain U.S.V.

First Lieutenant F. Gager, 16th Michigan Vols., to be brevet Captain U.S.V.

First Lieutenant H. Gawthrop, 4th Delaware Vols., to be brevet Captain U.S.V.

First Lieutenant E. T. Yardley, 4th Delaware Vols., to be brevet Captain U.S.V.

First Lieutenant D. E. Buckingham, 4th Delaware Vols., to be brevet Captain U.S.V.

First Lieutenant J. L. Benyon, 191st Pennsylvania Vols., to be brevet Captain U.S.V.

First Lieutenant L. Shaw, 56th Pennsylvania Vols., to be brevet Captain U.S.V.

Second Lieutenant H. Sommer, 2d United States Infantry, to be brevet First Lieutenant U.S.A.

Second Lieutenant J. Hunter, 10th United States Infantry, to be brevet First Lieutenant U.S.A.

Second Lieutenant W. J. Broatch, 10th United States Infantry, to be brevet First Lieutenant U.S.A.

Second Lieutenant C. McKibben, 14th United States Infantry, to be brevet First Lieutenant and Captain U.S.A.

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retained guns burst on board our fleet during the bombardment of Fort Fisher, on the 24th, 25th and 26th of December, 1864; that they were mounted, one each, on board the *Ticonderoga*, *Junata*, *Mackinaw*, *Quaker City* and *Tastic*, and that forty-five persons were reported to have been killed and wounded thereby.

The cause of their bursting cannot be determined for want of further data.

None of these guns were entirely of wrought-iron construction; they were of cast-iron, strengthened at the breech by a wrought-iron band.

Very respectfully, &c.

GIDON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy.
HON. SCHUYLER COLFAX, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

ADMIRAL PORTER'S REPLY TO GENERAL BUTLER.

NORTH ATLANTIC SQUADRON,
UNITED STATES FLAGSHIP MALVERN,
CAPE FEAR RIVER, JAN. 23, 1865.

SIR—I have read the report of Major-General Butler in relation to the late expedition to Wilmington (in which he bore a part), and though late results (the capture of Fort Fisher) have completely refuted the assertions of General Butler and Weitzel, I deem it due to the naval part of the expedition that General Butler's report should receive some notice at my hands.

To use the mildest terms I can, I pronounce the whole report a tissue of misstatements from beginning to end, scarcely equalled by the misstatements made regarding the Lieutenant-General.

The Navy had been waiting for two months to start on this expedition, but for reasons known to the Lieutenant-General and myself, and which were perfectly satisfactory to me, the proper time was waited for. We wanted a success, not a failure.

General Weitzel was selected, and General Butler's name was never connected with the expedition, except to fit it out. When the expedition did prepare to start, it was going to the attack on the supposition that the powder-vessel (originally prepared by General Butler) would blow the forts down, and the troops would have nothing to do but to walk in.

I was not opposed myself to the experiment (for I think everything worth trying), and gave all my time and attention to the enterprise and fitting out the vessel. I was hard at work getting ready, filling her with powder, and had placed her in the carpenter's hands, the weather looking very equally. Judge of my surprise, when General Butler came on board the flagship at Norfolk, and told me he was embarking the troops in transports, and would be ready to start in two days. I told him that was out of the question, a heavy southwest gale was coming on that would last three days at least, and we could not go to sea at such a time, neither could his transports move. My advice was "not to embark the men until the gale was over."

He did embark the troops nevertheless. The gale blew heavy for four days, and the troops must have been very uncomfortable. At the end of that gale the fleet sailed. I told General Butler that my vessels were all slow; the Monitors would have to be towed; would have to go into Beaufort to fill up with ammunition and coal, as I was afraid to venture them at sea with too much. I advised him to wait until we had got thirty-six hours start of him, and also recommended him to rendezvous at Beaufort, N. C., where he would find a good harbor. Even up to this time he did not tell me that he himself was going along, but let me to believe General Weitzel was to be in command. He did not take my opinion about sailing. His transports sailed before any of the fleet except the Monitors, and instead of rendezvousing at Beaufort, where I could hope to find him, he rendezvoused off Masonboro' point; showed his flagship decked out with flags to the enemy at Fort Fisher, and had one of his transports fired on by guns near the fort. In the meantime I worked night and day at Beaufort to get the Monitors ready and complete the arrangements for the powder-boat, and I sailed when ready. There was no time when any troops could have landed without danger up to the time the first attack took place. I was to be the judge of that, not General Butler, for I had not that faith in his generalship which would induce me to follow him blindly, though I determined to do all I could for him, and make the expedition a success if possible.

I soon saw, though, that General Butler depended on the powder-boat entirely, and I said we would have no assault from the beginning.

I will now proceed to notice General Butler's report in detail, and state where it is incorrect.

He first says that the Navy thirty-six hours start. That is untrue; the transports started before the Navy, or disappeared. General Butler himself left after I did. He speaks of the "fastest possible weather;" he had at sea, but says nothing about the surf on the beach. No boat can land on the beach unless the wind has been blowing strong off the land, and on the days in question, by looking at the log-book, you will find the wind blowing southwest and south. On the 15th the Monitors had not arrived at Beaufort, and on the 16th and 17th were sailing and sailing with ammunition, and had to wait a smooth time to get over the bar, the wind blowing southwest on the 16th, 17th and 18th, and through a heavy surf on the beach. On most of those nights Mr. Bradford, of the coast survey, came near being capsized in the breakers, while making a reconnaissance. It was General Butler's duty to have rendezvoused at Beaufort, and wait until the Monitors and powder-boat on which he so much depended were ready. The movements of the light transports should have been subordinate to the large and slow-moving frigates and iron-clads, and he should have been where he could have arranged with me all the details of the attack; but no, he kept out of my way, and, I think, did it studiously.

When I arrived on the ground of the naval rendezvous with the Monitors, I found General Butler there.

I ordered the powder-boat in, on the night of the 18th (the smoothest beach we had had), but at General Butler's request, communicated through General Weitzel, in presence of the fleet captain (Lieutenant-Commander K. R. Broese), I postponed the explosion until General Butler should say he was ready. The correspondence on this subject has all been sent to you, and you can judge for yourself how far General Butler's statement is true.

General Butler states that "Admiral Porter was quite sanguine that he had silenced the guns of Fort Fisher. He was then urged, if that were so, to run by the batteries into Cape Fear River, and then troops could land and hold the beach without difficulty, or without liability of being shelled by the enemy's gunboat *Tallahassee*, seen on the river." That is a deliberate misstatement. General Butler does not say who urged me; but I never saw him, or his staff, after the landing on the beach, nor did I ever have any conversation with him, or see him (except on the deck of his vessel as I passed by in the flagship) from the time I left Fort Monroe until he left here after his failure.

He showed himself by that remark just as ignorant about hydrography as the Rebel General Whiting did when he built his fort where he supposed large ships could not get near enough to attack it. Neither myself nor any one in the squadron had the faintest idea where the channel was or what depth of water there was in it. We knew there was an outer and inside bar, between which was included the heaviest fortifications in this country, on which bars the blockade-runners constantly grounded, and had to wait for high water to get off. After we had no guns to annoy us and I had the channel sounded out and carefully buoyed, nearly all the gunboats of light draught got badly aground, and remained there for a whole tide. We were forty-eight hours getting gunboats of light batteries over the first bar, and they had to anchor under the guns of the heaviest forts. They would have fared badly had the Rebels manned them.

Three days were consumed in getting the gunboats over the "Rips," and one of them is stuck there still. The "Rips" are commanded by about twenty 10-inch guns and 100-pounders, and not a gunboat would have been left had they attempted to run the batteries. It might have been sent to General Butler, but it would have been death to the gunboats. I never had the slightest intention of passing the batteries until the fort was taken. The Department saw my plan, and the utter impossibility of doing so.

I would certainly not have been influenced by "General Butler's" opinions in nautical matters, or risked my vessels to amuse him.

All the next paragraph in General Butler's report, in relation to what the "Admiral" said, and what the "Admiral" declined to do, is false from beginning to end.

I never had any conversation of the kind with any one—indeed, the whole report is a tissue of misrepresentations, including the part that says the instructions he received did not contemplate a "siege, &c.," when he knows he never received any instructions, and joined the expedition without orders.

General Butler speaks of pushing up his men to within a few hundred yards of Fort Fisher, and capturing Half-moon Battery and its men. The "General" certainly must have had something in his eye, and did not see well. Half-moon Battery is four miles from Fort Fisher, had one gun in it, which was silenced after a few shots from the gunboats, and no one ever entered it. It was a small sand-hill, that twenty men could have taken. Flag Pond Battery was a larger work, thrown up by

the Rebels, in which was one 8-inch gun that had burst some time ago. The gunboats shelled it, and, on the landing of the first boat-load of troops, the seamen went up and found some boys and old men in it (North Carolina Junior reserves), and carried them off to the *Santiago de Cuba*. The prisoners were quite willing to go. The troops afterwards surprised 218 officers and men near Fort Fisher, and captured them.

General Butler speaks of having run in the *Chamberlain* to within a few hundred yards of the fort. If he ran that close and was not fired at, he must have supposed the fort silenced; but he never was within one mile and a half of the fort, nor did he ever land himself. What General Butler says about the difficulties of assaulting, owing to palisades, ditches, and other things on the land side, and the unsuccessful assault made by General Terry on the land side, and the unsuccessful one made by the sailors on the sea face of the fort, when thirty gallant officers and seamen reached the top of the parapet and planted the flag. Soldiers, who were accustomed to the work, would have succeeded there easier than where General Terry assaulted, as the ascent (where the sailors went in) was easier. The same troops that General Butler had did the work finally, and took the most difficult side of the works.

General Butler admits that the fire of the Navy did keep the enemy in his bomb-proof, but he feared it would keep his (Butler's) men out when they attempted the assault. General Terry was influenced by no such fear; on the contrary, we fired twenty yards ahead of our troops, while they were fighting from bomb-proof to bomb-proof, and the General constantly signalled, "Fire away! your shells are doing good execution, and our men are in no danger from them."

In the meantime (General Butler says), "the weather assumed a threatening aspect, and the surf came rolling in on the beach, and the landing became difficult."

I assert that the landing on that day was smoother than when General Terry landed. I arranged with General Butler's chief of staff, General Weitzel, to land the troops early in the morning. I gave him boats, vessels, everything, in fact, that he asked for, and at 3 o'clock P. M., not more than three thousand men were on shore, with one day's rations. With General Terry, I commenced to land the men at 5.20 A. M., and at 2 P. M. eight thousand five hundred men were on the beach, with twelve days' provisions and all the encumbering tools. The men were rolled over in the surf, wet their cartridges, and filled up with more.

They went there to stay, and I knew we would have the fort before many days, from the conduct of the men and officers. There was no necessity for General Butler re-embarking his men on account of the weather. It was rough on the beach, but our boats from the fleet communicated at times, and when it was necessary. The gunboats laid within six hundred yards of the beach, and covered the troops left on shore, when the General went away after hearing the news from some North Carolina reserves that Hoke's brigade was advancing, and that the fort was strongly reinforced. But what if it was. We came down here to take it, and General Terry with the same men did take it. They were determined to follow their brave general wherever he might think proper to lead.

After General Butler left for Fortress Monroe, it was rather rough—too rough to land troops or bring them off, but it only lasted twenty-four hours, and the troops came off without much difficulty; in fact, there was no time when communication stopped altogether.

Had General Butler commenced landing men (with the determination to stay) at 8 o'clock in the morning, they would all have been ashore by sunset.

We landed General Terry's 8,500 men in 5½ hours, and had time to give the fort a good battering before dark.

General Butler says he gave orders to the transports to sail for Fortress Monroe as soon as the troops were on board, in obedience to the orders of the Lieutenant-General.

General Grant never contemplated the withdrawal of the troops. He sent them there to stay, and, having once effected a landing, he knew that the most difficult part was done. The Army once in possession of that narrow neck of land, and covered by the guns of the fleet, the capture of Fort Fisher was a mere matter of time. (In a heavy gale, blowing yesterday and to-day, the vessels outside did not desert their posts.)

General Butler states that the garrison of Flag Pond Battery belonged to Kirkland's brigade. He is in error there; they were a part of Junior North Carolina Reserves.

He also stated that he captured two heavy rifled guns, two light guns, some caissons, &c. No such captures were ever made, and the captured forts, about which so much has been written, were rough earth works, thrown up for the purpose of firing at blockaders when they chased close in shore. They made no resistance after a few shots were fired by the gunboats.

I have nothing to say in relation to General Weitzel's report, beyond this—he has made mistakes in his statements. He admits that he requested me to wait a few days until we could co-operate more favorably, on which I suppose General Butler grounds his belief that the Navy detained him.

I did wait, and have waited ever since, until the right man and a good time offered to take the fort. They were taken, as I said they could be, and that the strongest argument in favor of the Navy, on whom it was foolishly attempted to fix this blunder.

As it has turned out, the first failure had its advantages, and the country will derive great comfort therefrom.

If General Butler had not descended to a subterfuge to cover his mistakes, I would willingly have allowed him to go into retirement with the honors he has won; but no man shall reflect unjustly on me or the corps to which I belong without his hearing from me in some way or other.

I have sent you documents and extracts from log-books to show that what I say is correct, and the log-books of the whole fleet can be examined if necessary.

In conclusion, permit me to say that I don't see what it matters whether General Butler landed one day or another. He decided that the fort could not be taken when he did land. He could not expect the Rebels to leave a work like that with less than 600 men in it, and he certainly could have tried to assault that number. General Terry had 2,300 to contend against, and he carried the works without a very serious loss, considering the importance of the position to the country.

I enclose you the report of the Rebel General Whiting, who states plainly that "no reinforcements had arrived until Tuesday morning (the 21st), when all our troops were embarked."

If the evidence already presented is doubted, the report of General Whiting cannot be, therefore the excuse for re-embarking the troops because the forts had been reinforced by Hoke's division is a poor one.

General Whiting says "the garrison remained, steadily awaiting the renewal of the assault or bombardment, until Tuesday morning (21st), when they were relieved by the support of Major-General Hoke and the embarkation of the enemy." This was two days after the attack of the Navy and the landing and re-embarking of the troops.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DAVID D. PORTER, Rear-Admiral.

HON. GIDON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

ADMIRAL PORTER ON GENERAL TERRY.

NORTH ATLANTIC SQUADRON, UNITED STATES FLAGSHIP MALVERN,
OFF SMITHVILLE, N. C., January 20, 1865.

SIR—I have been so much pleased with General Terry, and the manner in which he has conducted his part of the operations here, that I deem it worthy of a special dispatch to express what I feel.

General Terry is, no doubt, well known to his associates in the field, who have served with him, and to the Lieutenant-General, who selected him for the service, but the American people should know and feel the very great service he has rendered them, by his most admirable assault on these tremendous works, by his modesty of a true soldier, and is willing to give credit to those who shared with him the perils of the assault. No one could form the slightest conception of those works, their magnitude, strength, and extent, who had not seen them, and General Whiting (the founder), must have had an abiding faith in the durability of the Confederacy when he expended so many years labor on them.

The result of the fall of Fort Fisher was the fall of all the surrounding works in and near this place—Fort Caswell, a large work at the West inlet, mounting twenty-nine guns, all the works on Smith's Island, the works between Caswell and Smithville, up to battery on Reeve's Point, on the west side of the river—in all one hundred and sixty-nine guns falling into our hands; two steamers were burnt or blown up, and there never was so close a scoop made anywhere.

A timid man would have hesitated to attack these works by assault, no matter what assistance he may have had from other quarters, but General Terry never for an instant hesitated; and though I feel somewhat flattered at the confidence he reposed in my judgement, I am quite ready to believe that he acted on his own ideas of what was proper to be done in the matter, and was perfectly qualified to judge without the advice of any one.

Throughout this affair his conduct has been marked by the greatest desire to be successful, not for the sake of personal considerations, but for the cause in which we are all alike engaged.

I don't know that I ever met an officer who so completely gained my esteem and admiration.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DAVID D. PORTER, Rear-Admiral.

HON. GIDON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

ARMY GAZETTE.

SETTLEMENT OF THE NEGROES.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
IN THE FIELD, SAVANNAH, GA., JANUARY 16.

Special Field Orders No. 16.

I. The islands from Charleston, south, the abandoned rice fields along the rivers for thirty miles back from the sea, and the country bordering the St. John's River, Florida, are reserved and set apart for the settlement of the negroes now made free by the acts of war and the proclamation of the President of the United States.

II. At Beaufort, Hilton Head, Savannah, Fernandina, St. Augustine, and Jacksonville, the blacks may remain in their chosen or accustomed vocations; but on the islands, and in the settlements hereafter to be established, no white person whatever, unless military officers detailed for duty, will be permitted to reside; and the sole and exclusive management of affairs will be left to the freed people themselves, subject only to the United States military authority and the acts of Congress. By the laws of war, and orders of the President of the United States, the negro is free, and must be dealt with as such. He cannot be subjected to conscription or forced military service, save by written orders of the highest military authority of the department, under such regulations as the President or Congress may prescribe. Domestic servants, blacksmiths, carpenters, or other mechanics, will be free to select their own work and residence, but the young and able-bodied negroes must be encouraged to enlist as soldiers in the service of the United States, to contribute their share toward maintaining their own freedom and securing their rights as citizens of the United States. Negroes so enlisted will be organized into companies, battalions, and regiments, under the orders of the United States military authorities, and will be paid, fed, and clothed according to law. The bounty as paid on enlistment may, with the consent of the recruit, go to assist his family and settlement in procuring agricultural implements, seed, tools, boats, clothing, and other articles necessary for their livelihood.

III. Whenever three respectable negroes, heads of families, shall desire to settle on land, and shall have selected for that purpose an island or a locality clearly defined, within the limits above designated, the inspector of settlements and plantations will himself, or by such subordinate officer as he may appoint, give them a license to settle such island or district, and afford them such assistance as he can to enable them to establish a peaceable agricultural settlement. The three parties named will subdivide the land, under the supervision of the inspector, among themselves, and such other as may choose to settle near them, so that each family shall have a plot of not more than forty (40) acres of tillable ground, and when it borders on some water channel, with not more than eight hundred feet front, in the possession of which land the military authorities will afford them protection until such time as they can protect themselves, or until Congress shall regulate their land. The quartermaster may, on the requisition of the inspector of settlements and plantations, place at the disposal of the inspector one or more of the captured steamers, to ply between the settlements and one or more of the commercial ports heretofore named in orders, to afford the settlers the opportunity to supply their necessary wants, and to sell the products of their land and labor.

IV. Whenever a negro has enlisted in the military service of the United States, he may locate his family in any one of the settlements at pleasure, and acquire a homestead and all other rights and privileges of a settler as though present in person. In like manner, negroes may settle their families and engage on board the gunboats, or in fishing, or in the navigation of the inland waters, without losing any claim to land or other advantages derived from this system. But no one, unless present on government service, will be entitled to claim any right to land or property in any settlement, by virtue of these orders.

V. In order to carry out this system of settlement, a general officer will be detailed as inspector of settlements and plantations, whose duty it shall be to visit the settlements, to regulate their police and general management, and who will furnish personally to each head of a family, subject to the approval of the President of the United States, a possessory title in writing, giving as near as possible the description of boundaries, and who shall adjust all claims or conflicts that may arise under the same, subject to the like approval, treating such titles altogether as possessory. The same general officer will also be charged with the enlistment and organization of the negro recruits, and protecting their interests while so absent from their settlements; and will be governed by the rules and regulations prescribed by the War Department for such purpose.

VI. Brigadier-General R. Saxon is hereby appointed inspector of settlements and plantations, and will at once enter on the performance of his duties. No change is intended or desired in the settlement now on Beaufort Island, nor will any rights to property heretofore acquired be affected thereby.

By order of Major-General W. T. SHERMAN.
L. M. DAYTON, Major and Assistant Adjutant-General.

MILITARY REGULATIONS OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC TRADE.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI, IN THE FIELD, SAVANNAH, GA., JAN. 16.

Special Field Orders No. 13.

The Department of the South having been placed within the sphere of this command, and it being highly desirable that a uniform policy prevail touching commerce and intercourse with the inhabitants of the South, the following general rules and principles will be adhered to unless modified by law or the orders of the War Department:

1. The commerce of foreign nations cannot be permitted or undertaken until the national authority is established to an extent that will give the necessary courts and officers to control and manage such matters. Trade will be confined to a more barter and sale proportioned to the necessities of the Army and of the inhabitants dependent on it for the necessities of life, and even that trade must be kept subject to strict military control or surveillance.

2. Trade stores will be permitted at Beaufort, Hilton Head, Savannah, Fernandina, St. Augustine, and Jacksonville, in all the articles of food and clothing, groceries, ladies' and children's goods generally, and articles not contraband of war.

3. To trade is a privilege; and no person will be allowed to buy and sell for profit unless he be a citizen of the United States, and subscribe to any legal oath or obligation that is or may be prescribed by law; and at points threatened by an enemy, the officer commanding may further exact as a condition that the trader shall himself engage to serve in some military capacity to aid in the defence of the place.

4. Persons desiring to trade will apply to the commanding officer of the post and obtain his written consent, specifying the kind, nature and extent of the trade; and when he requires importation from Northern cities he will, in like manner apply for his permit. The commanding officer of the post may appoint some good officer to supervise these matters, who will frequently inspect the stores, and when there is not sufficient competition will fix the prices of sale. These stores will, in like manner, be subject to the supervision of the commanding general of the Department of the South, by himself or an inspector-general.

5. In order that purchases may be made with economy, the commanding officer of each post will make reports of his action in regard to trade, with the names of traders, amounts of goods desired for sale, &c., to the commanding general of the department, who will, in like manner, make full reports to the Secretary of the United States Treasury, to the end that he may instruct the collectors of ports from which shipments are expected as to the necessary permits and clearances. It being utterly impracticable that a general commanding military operations should give his personal attention to such matters, it is desirable that as much power as possible should be delegated to post commanders, and they should be held to the strictest account that no trade is permitted injurious to the military interests of the United States.

6. Sales of cotton will be restricted absolutely to the United States Treasury agents, and no title in cotton or bill of sale will be respected until after the cotton is sold at New York. Country people having small lots of cotton are permitted to bring the same in to be exchanged for food and clothing for their families. The quartermaster will set aside a store or warehouse, to which each wagon bearing cotton will, after entering the military lines, proceed direct, where an agent of the Treasury Department will receive and weigh the same, and pay for it the price fixed in the eighth section of the act of Congress approved July 2, 1864, viz., three-fourths the value of cotton as quoted in the New York market; and the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby requested to make appointments of agents to carry out the provisions of said act at the ports of Hilton Head, Savannah, Fernandina, and Jacksonville.

7. In order that the duties hereby imposed on commanding officers of

posts may not be neglected or slighted by the changes incident to rank and changes of troops, the Commanding General of the Department of the South will appoint a special officer to command at each of said posts, with a small garrison, not to be changed without his order, and when other troops, commanded by a senior, are added or arrive, the command of the post will not change, but the additional troops will be encamped near by and act according to special instructions.

By order of Major-General W. T. Sherman.
L. M. DAYTON, Major and Assistant Adjutant-General.

THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

COMMUNICATION FROM SECRETARY STANTON.

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, JANUARY 21, 1865.
SIR:—In answer to the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 21st of December, calling for the correspondence in reference to the exchange of prisoners I have the honor to submit herewith the report of the Adjutant-General, together with such communications upon the subject as have not heretofore been published.

The correspondence of General Butler details the action in regard to the exchange of prisoners under the authority conferred upon him by order of the War Department.

On the 15th of October the subject of exchange was placed under the direction of Lieutenant-General Grant, with full authority to take any steps he might deem proper to effect the release and exchange of our soldiers and of loyal persons held as prisoners by the Rebel authorities. He was instructed that it was the desire of the President that no effort consistent with national honor should be spared to effect the prompt release of all soldiers and loyal persons in captivity to the Rebels as prisoners of war, or on any other grounds, and the subject was committed to him, with full authority to act in the premises as he should deem right and proper. Under this authority, the subject of exchange has, from that time, continued in his charge, and such efforts have been made as he deemed proper to obtain the release of our prisoners. An arrangement was made for the supply of our prisoners, the articles to be distributed under the direction of our own officers, paroled for that purpose, and the corresponding privilege was extended to the Rebel authorities. In order to afford every facility for relief, special exchanges have been offered whenever desired on behalf of our prisoners. Such exchanges have, in a few instances, been permitted by the Rebel authorities, but in many others they have been denied. A large number of exchanges, including all the sick, has been effected within a recent period. The Commissary-General of prisoners has been directed to make a detailed report of all the exchanges that have been accomplished since the general exchange ceased. He will furnish it to the House of Representatives as soon as completed. The last communication of General Grant gives reason to believe that a full and complete exchange of all prisoners will speedily be made. It also appears from his statement that weekly supplies are furnished to our prisoners and distributed by officers of our own selection. His letter is subjoined, as follows:—

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,
WASHINGTON, D. C., JAN. 21, 1865.

Hon. E. M. STANTON, Secretary of War:—

SIR:—I have authorized Colonel Mulford, agent of exchange, to renew negotiations for the exchange of all prisoners now held by either party. The first interview between our agent and the Rebel agent, Colonel Ould, has already been had. No doubt but that an arrangement will be entered into. Indeed, on the strength of that interview, an exchange—a limited one—is now going on near Richmond. Yours, truly,

U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant-General.
They are received by officers of our own selection, released Federal prisoners, who distribute them as directed.
U. S. G.
Supplies furnished by friends of prisoners, are also forwarded in the same manner. The nature of the supplies authorized to be furnished by individuals, is specified in the annexed order of the Department.

Very respectfully your obedient servant,
EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

To Hon. SCHUYLER COLFAX, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

FURLOUGHS FOR SOLDIERLY CONDUCT.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
January 24, 1865.

General Orders No. 4.
To the end that a proper spirit of emulation may be aroused among the enlisted men of this Army, and meritorious conduct recognized and rewarded, furlough will be granted to such men, as by attention to duty, proficiency in drill, conduct on the march and in battle, and care of arms, horses and equipments, have proved themselves to be the best soldiers in the brigades to which they are attached.

The following will be the rule of apportionment and selection:—
To each 1,000 men present for duty in each brigade, one furlough, and if the excess is over 500, two furloughs, on selections made by the brigade commander. Should the excess not reach 500, a furlough will be forwarded representing such excess, in the different brigades of the division, if the total exceeds 500, one furlough will be selected by the division commander.

Such furloughs will be for 25 days, will state that they are for soldierly conduct under the provisions of this order, and will be forwarded on the 27th day of each month for action at these headquarters.

By command of Major-General MEADE.
S. F. BARSTOW, Assistant Adjutant-General.

RELEASE OF PRISONERS OF WAR FROM CONFINEMENT IN IRONS.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, JAN. 18, 1865.

General Orders No. 6.
A proposal having been made by Robert Ould, on the 22d of August last, to the effect that prisoners of war on both sides be released from confinement, close or in irons, as the case may be, and either placed in the condition of other prisoners or sent to their respective homes for their equivalents, which proposal was duly approved by the Secretary of War, it is hereby ordered that all Confederate prisoners of war that come within the term of said accepted proposal be released and sent to Fort Monroe, there to be detained subject to the orders of Lieutenant-Colonel John E. Mulford, Agent for the Exchange of Prisoners, to enable him to carry the proposal into effect. In executing this order the expression confinement close will be construed as meaning prisoners confined in cells.

By order of the SECRETARY OF WAR.
A. A. NICHOLS, Act. Adj. General.

GENERAL FOSTER ASSUMES COMMAND.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
HILTON HEAD, S. C., JANUARY 16, 1865.

General Orders No. 4.
The State of North Carolina having been attached to this Department, the undersigned hereby assumes command of the same. It will in future be designated the District of North Carolina, Department of the South.

The commanding officer of the District of North Carolina will make the usual returns and reports required by regulations to these headquarters.

J. G. FOSTER, Major-General Commanding.
W. L. M. BURGESS, Assistant Adjutant-General.

THE DISTRICT OF SAVANNAH.

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
HILTON HEAD, S. C., JANUARY 21, 1865.

General Orders No. 7.
The command and charge of the city of Savannah and dependencies having, by the order of Major-General W. T. Sherman, commanding Military Division of the Mississippi, been assigned to me, as a portion of the Department of the South, I hereby assume command thereof.

This district of the Department will be designated the District of Savannah, and will embrace the city of Savannah, with its forts, lines of defence and communication, Fort Pulaski, and the islands and country adjacent, to the extent of the military control of the garrison.

Brevet Major-General Oviar Grover, United States Volunteers, is hereby assigned to the command of the District of Savannah.
J. C. FOSTER, Major-General Commanding.
W. L. M. BURGESS, Acting Adjutant-General.

CONFIRMATIONS BY THE SENATE.

O. C. Skelton, of Iowa, to be hospital chaplain.
James H. Armby, of New York, to be assistant surgeon.

RE-ANNEXATION OF ARIZONA TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, JAN. 20, 1865.

General Orders No. 9.
The Territory of Arizona is re-annexed to the Department of the Pacific, under the command of Major-General McDowell, headquarters at San Francisco, California.
By order of the SECRETARY OF WAR.
E. D. TOWNSEND, A. A. G.

NORTH CAROLINA ADDED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH.

WAR DEPARTMENT, SAVANNAH, GA.,
JAN. 12, 1865.

General Orders No. 7.
The limits of the Department of the South are extended so as to embrace the State of North Carolina. The headquarters will remain at Hilton Head. The Department will, until further instructions, be subject to the orders and control of Major-General Sherman.

By order of the SECRETARY OF WAR.
E. D. TOWNSEND, A. A. G.

CONSOLIDATION OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF THE OHIO AND THE CUMBERLAND.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, JAN. 17, 1865.

General Orders No. 5.
By direction of the President, the Department of the Ohio is united to that of the Cumberland, which will embrace such parts of Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia as may be occupied by troops under the command of Major-General Thomas. Major-General Schofield will turn over to General Thomas all archives, papers, &c., appertaining to the headquarters of the Department of the Ohio.

By order of the SECRETARY OF WAR.
A. A. NICHOLS, Act. Adj. General.

DISMISSALS

For the week ending January 21, 1865.

Colonel John F. Tyler, 1st Infantry, Missouri State Militia, to date January 13, 1865, for fraudulent conduct in connection with transportation passes, trading in substitutes, and sanctioning the same in employees under his control, he being at the time on duty as Assistant Provost-Marshal.
Colonel John E. Wynkoop, 20th Pennsylvania Cavalry, to date January 18, 1865.

First Lieutenant William McIlwraith, 9th Cavalry, Missouri State Militia, to date January 18, 1865, for causing a communication to be published in which his superior officers are treated with contempt and disrespect.

DISMISSALS CONFIRMED.

The orders of dismissal heretofore issued in the following cases have been confirmed:—

Lieutenant Colonel S. R. Wetmore, 13th Illinois Cavalry, to date December 31, 1864, for incompetency and general inefficiency.
Surgeon M. L. Rosevaly, 1st Florida Cavalry, to date December 31, 1864, for refusing to appear before a Medical Board of Examiners for examination as to his qualifications, and for disobedience of orders.

Captain William L. Messinger, 1st Arkansas Cavalry, to date December 29, 1864, for habitual drunkenness and neglect of duty in the presence of the enemy.

Captain J. F. Phelps, 6th Massachusetts Battery, to date December 29, 1864, for embezzling the company savings of his command.
Captain Eldred Huff, 4th Iowa Cavalry, to date December 20, 1864, for disobedience of orders, neglect of duty, habitual unsoldierly conduct, mismanagement of his command, and allowing himself to be surprised by the enemy, near Memphis, Tennessee, on December 14, 1864.

First Lieutenant W. A. Gephart, 70th United States Colored Troops, to date January 2, 1865, for having tendering his resignation on the ground of utter incompetency.

First Lieutenant George Brown, 7th Vermont Volunteers, to date December 23, 1864, for habitual intoxication, and being a worthless, inefficient officer.

First Lieutenant Edward H. Lomas, 56th New York Volunteers, to date January 7, 1865, for absenting himself from his company without permission (and remaining absent until December 2, 1864,) while his regiment was engaged with the enemy, in the action at Honey Hill, South Carolina, November 30, 1864, he being at the time the only officer with his company.

First Lieutenant David C. Westervelt, 2d Kansas Colored Infantry, to date December 31, 1864, "for continued absence without leave since May last."

First Lieutenant A. W. Hill, 13th Illinois Cavalry, to date December 31, 1864, for worthlessness, inefficiency, and incompetency.

Second Lieutenant William J. Hall, 120th Illinois Volunteers, to date December 20, 1864, "for neglect of duty and disobedience of orders, in taking off his arms and equipments and lying down to sleep while in charge of a principal reserve of outpost, after having been notified of an expected attack upon the pickets, at Memphis, Tennessee, on the night of December 15, 1864."

Second Lieutenant N. S. Storms, 13th Illinois Cavalry, to date December 31, 1864, for inefficiency and worthlessness.

Second Lieutenant James Johns, 20th New York Cavalry, to date January 3, 1865, for unofficerlike performance of duty, and while in command of a squad of nine men at night, in the country, ordering them "to scatter among the people for quarters," in consequence whereof a portion of his men committed a robbery upon a peaceable citizen thereof.

Second Lieutenant John Clancy, 2d United States Colored Artillery, (light), to date November 20, 1864, for appearing in the streets of Norfolk and Portsmouth, Virginia, in a state of intoxication, resisting the guard and disturbing the peace.

DISMISSALS REVOKED.

The orders of dismissal heretofore issued in the following cases have been revoked:

Colonel Edward Bacon, 6th Michigan Heavy Artillery, and he is honorably discharged to date October 31, 1864.

Surgeon William H. Tanner, 178th New York Volunteers, and he is honorably discharged to date November 22, 1864.

RESTORED TO COMMISSION.

The following officers heretofore dismissed have been restored with pay from the date at which they rejoin their regiments for duty:

Lieutenant-Colonel R. S. Donaldson, 50th United States Colored Troops.

Captain James H. Green, 8th Wisconsin Volunteers, provided the vacancy has not been filled by the Governor of his State.

Additional Paymaster William W. White, United States Volunteers, has been restored to his position of additional paymaster without loss of pay.

DROPPED FROM THE ROLLS OF THE ARMY.

The order heretofore issued dropping Captain James S. Hall, signal corps United States Army, from the rolls, has been revoked.

CASHIERED.

Lieutenant Peter Ginter, Co. I, 200th Pennsylvania Volunteers.

Lieutenant John Kneit, 37th New Jersey Volunteers.

Second Lieutenant James T. W. Barrett, Co. B, 12th Regt., Kentucky Volunteers.

Captain William F. De Vere, Co. F, 3d Regt., Maryland Cavalry, and to forfeit all his pay to the Government.

NOTICE TO DELINQUENTS.

The following officers, having been reported at the headquarters of the Army for the offences hereinafter specified, are hereby notified that they will stand dismissed the service of the United States unless within fifteen (15) days from Jan. 30, 1865, they appear before the Military Commission in session in Washington, D. C., of which Brigadier General John C. Caldwell, United States Volunteers, is President, and make satisfactory defence to the charges against them:

Disobedience of orders and absence without leave.

First Lieutenant Thomas B. Lamb, 21st Ohio Volunteers.

Conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline, cowardice, and desertion.

First Lieutenant Orlando S. Perkins, 2d Michigan Volunteers.

Absence without leave.

Captain G. B. Harrington, 2d Iowa Cavalry.

First Lieutenant Henry Kolweitz, 7th New York Volunteers.

Second Lieutenant Joseph O'Neill, 7th New Jersey Volunteers.

EXEMPT FROM DISMISSAL.

Captain J. W. Day, 1st Indiana Heavy Artillery, charged with offences, and heretofore published, is exempt from being dismissed the service of the United States, he having made satisfactory defence to the charge of absence without leave, before a Military Commission convened in the field.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

ASSIGNMENTS.

Surgeon John Campbell, U. S. A., relieved from duty in the Department of Washington, and ordered to duty on a Board of Medical Officers at Philadelphia, Pa., for the examination of all enlisted men in the hospitals in and about that city.

The station of Lieutenant-Colonel George H. Lyman, Medical Inspector, U. S. A., assigned to duty as Medical Inspector, Department of the East, is hereby changed from New York city, to Boston, Mass.

RESIGNED.

Surgeons Gabriel Grant and Thomas S. Worrall, U. S. Vols.

Surgeon Adam Naumer, U. S. Vols.

DIED.

Surgeon M. F. Cogswell, U. S. A., an old and distinguished citizen of Albany, N. Y.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Surgeon A. K. Smith, U. S. A., who was ordered to Savannah, Georgia, has been ordered to remain attached to the U. S. Laboratory, Philadelphia, Pa.

Brevet Colonel Charles McDougal, Surgeon U. S. Army, is hereby assigned to duty, with pay and emoluments according to his brevet rank from January 23, 1865.

NAVY GAZETTE.

REGULAR NAVAL SERVICE.

ORDERED.

Lieutenant-Commander Edward Simpson, to duty under Rear-Admiral Gregory.

Second Assistant Engineer William H. Badlam, to the *Nippon*.

Lieutenant-Commander James S. Thornton, to command the *Isco*.

Lieutenant Edwin M. Shepard, to the *St. Louis*.

Third Assistant Engineer Henry McCornell, to the *Galena*.

Third Assistant Engineer Robert S. Steadman, to the *Galena*.

First Assistant Engineer James F. Sprague, to the *Galena*.

Lieutenant Herbert B. Tyson, to the *Connecticut*.

Gunner James D. Borton, to the *Connecticut*.

Commodore William Radford, to command of the James River Division.

Second Assistant Engineers Edwin Philippi, Hugh Pitkington, Isaac De Graff and Henry Holmes, to the *Connecticut*.

Paymaster James Fulton, to the Navy Yard, Washington.

Lieutenant La Rue P. Adams, to the *Monadnock*.

Lieutenant Commander John Madigan, to special duty at Boston, Mass., under the direction of Commodore T. A. Hunt.

DETACHED.

Commander John Gaest, from the command of the *Isco*, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered to duty under the direction of Rear-Admiral Gregory.

First Assistant Engineer Alexander V. Fraser, Jr., from the *Mendota*, and placed on sick leave.

First Assistant Engineer Isaac Newton, from special duty at New York, and ordered to the *Mendota*.

Ensign Ira Harris, Jr., from the *Powhatan*, in consequence of wounds received in the assault on Fort Fisher, and placed on sick leave.

Assistant Surgeon William P. Baird, from the *Passaic*, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered North.

Lieutenant William F. Stewart, from the *St. Louis*, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered North.

Commander A. S. Baldwin, from Inspector duty at New York, and ordered to command the receiving ship *Constellation*.

Commodore H. K. Thatcher, from the command of the *Colorado*, and appointed to command the West Gulf Blockading Squadron.

Commander James S. Palmer, from the command of the West Gulf Squadron, with permission to return North if he desires; if not, to remain on the West Gulf Squadron.

Lieutenant-Commander Weed N. Allen, from the *Tuscarora*, in consequence of a wound received at the assault on Fort Fisher, and ordered on sick leave.

First Assistant Engineer James Sheridan, from the *Passaic*, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered North.

Lieutenant-Commander James Parker, from the *Minnesota*, and ordered to command the *Musmee*.

Second Assistant Engineer E. A. Wright, from the *Powhatan*, and waiting orders.

Lieutenant-Commander Ralph Chandler, from the command of the *Musmee*, and ordered to the North Atlantic Squadron.

Commander William A. Parker, from the command of the James River Division, and ordered to report to the department by telegraph.

Lieutenant-Commander J. N. Miller, from the *Monadnock*, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered North.

Paymaster John S. Cunningham, from the Navy Yard, Washington, on the reporting of his relief, and waiting orders.

Passed Assistant Surgeon M. Bradley, from the Mississippi Squadron, and ordered to special duty with the Fleet Surgeon of that Squadron, connected with the adjustment of the accounts of the Medical Department.

PROMOTED.

Second Assistant Engineer Albert Aston, to First Assistant Engineer.

Third Assistant Engineer G. W. Hall, to Second Assistant Engineer.

Third Assistant Engineer H. D. McKwen, to Second Assistant Engineer.

Third Assistant Engineer Jefferson Brown, to Second Assistant Engineer.

Third Assistant Engineer J. A. B. Smith, to Second Assistant Engineer.

PLACED UPON THE RETIRED LIST.

Lieutenant-Commander Richard Aulick.

RESIGNATIONS ACCEPTED.

Midshipman W. C. Jameson, of the Naval Academy.

Midshipman E. M. Taylor, of the Naval Academy.

ORDERS REVOKED.

Commander Edwin Donaldson, to command the *Constellation*, on account of indisposition.

Assistant Surgeon William Cummons, and he will report for duty on board the *Passaic*, as a relief to Assistant Surgeon William P. Baird.

APPOINTMENTS.

Somerset Robinson, as Surgeon.

VOLUNTEER NAVAL SERVICE.

ORDERED.

Acting Master Joseph Marthon, to the *Chenango*.

Acting Assistant Paymaster James F. Beeves, to the Mississippi Squadron.

Acting Master's Mate William Smith, to the *Chenango*.

Acting Assistant Paymaster A. H. Humphrey, to the *Annie*.

Acting Assistant Paymaster J. S. Giraud, to the *Gettysburg*.
Acting Assistant Paymaster S. Thomas, Jr., to the *Harvest Moon*.
Acting Master C. W. Buck, to the coast survey steamer *Viscan*.
Acting Master W. H. Hubbs, to the *Connecticut*.
Acting Volunteer Lieutenant H. S. Wetmore, to the North Atlantic Squadron.
Acting Assistant Paymaster L. G. Billings, to the *Connecticut*.
Acting Ensign William Churchill, to the South Atlantic Squadron.
Acting Assistant Paymaster H. B. Wetherill, to the *Thomas Freeman*.
Acting Assistant Paymaster Thaddeus Bell, to the *Yanbuic*.
Acting Assistant Paymaster A. D. Bache, to the *Chenango*.
Acting Assistant Paymaster Levi F. Whitin, to instruction at New York.
Acting Assistant Paymaster J. B. Redfield, to the *Kenwood*, Mississippi Squadron.

DETACHED.

Acting Ensign A. A. Franzen, from the *John Adams*, and ordered North.
Acting Ensign A. H. Hazard, from the *Suwanee*, and placed on sick leave.
Acting Second Assistant Engineers John Doyle, and Thomas L. Churchill, and Acting Third Assistant Engineer Samuel H. Town, from the *Nippon*, and ordered to the *Naugatuck*.
Acting First Assistant Engineer George L. Harris, from the *Circassian*, and ordered to the *Paul Jones*.
Acting Third Assistant Engineer Charles F. Hirsch, from the *Circassian*, and ordered to the *Squadron*.
Acting Master Charles F. Langley, from temporary duty at New York, under the direction of Rear-Admiral Gregory, and ordered to the *Chenango*.
Acting Master's Mate Thomas Dalton, from the *Saratoga*, and placed on sick leave.
Acting Assistant Surgeon C. H. Manson, from the *Ohio*, and ordered to the *James Adger*.
Acting Assistant Paymaster R. B. Rodney, from the *Massachusetts*, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered to settle his accounts.
Acting Assistant Surgeon Samuel C. Johnston, from the *Wissachickon*, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered North, with permission for examination for Assistant Surgeon U. S. Navy.
Acting Assistant Surgeon W. W. Myers, from the *James Adger*, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered North, with permission for examination for Assistant Surgeon U. S. Navy.
Acting Assistant Paymaster L. E. Rice, from the *Harvest Moon*, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered to the *Massachusetts*.
Acting Assistant Surgeon A. S. Bassett, from the *Ohio*, and ordered to the *Hibiscus*.
Acting Second Assistant Engineer Joseph Watts, from the *Union*, and Acting Second Assistant Engineer James H. Plunkett, from the *Michigan*, and ordered to take passage from New York to San Francisco, Cal., for duty on the iron-clad *Camanche*.
Acting Ensigns Fred. A. O'Connor and James Birtwistle, from the *Minnesota*, and granted sick leave for one month.
Acting Third Assistant Engineer George W. Kiersted, from the *Napa*, and ordered to the *Albatross*.
Acting Volunteer Lieutenant-Commander William Badd, from temporary duty at the Navy Yard, Portsmouth, and ordered to command the *Florida*.
Acting Volunteer Lieutenant-Commander Thomas Poynton Ives, from Ordnance duty at the Navy Yard, Washington, D. C., and granted leave of absence for six months, with permission to leave the United States.
Acting Volunteer Lieutenant W. H. Garfield, from the command of the *Banshee*, and ordered to command the *Calypso*.
Acting Volunteer Lieutenant Frederick D. Stewart, from the command of the *Calypso*, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered to command the *Emma Henry*.
Acting Ensigns C. Carven, E. B. J. Singleton, J. D. Hademan, and E. J. Goodwin, from the *Nippon*, and ordered to the *Connecticut*.
Acting Ensign Robert H. Carcy, from the command of the bark *W. G. Anderson*, and ordered to the *Union*.
Acting Master George F. Watkins, from the *Union*, and ordered to command the bark *W. G. Anderson*.
Acting Assistant Paymaster H. B. Wetherill, from the *Kenwood*, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered North.
Acting Ensign George M. Prindle, from the *Banshee*, and ordered to the North Carolina.

APPOINTED.

Luther Cheney, of Nashua, N. H., Acting Third Assistant Engineer, and ordered to the *Circassian*.
Cornelius Shrader, of Hoboken, N. J., Acting Third Assistant Engineer, and ordered to the *Chenango*.
G. A. Vinton, of the Ordnance Department, Navy Yard, Washington, D. C., Acting Gunner, for the cruise of the *Chenango*.
B. F. Fries, of the *Supply*, Acting Ensign, and ordered to remain on board that vessel.
John N. Coonan, of the General Dispensary, Baltimore, Md., Acting Assistant Surgeon, and ordered to the *Wissachickon*.
Alonso D. Wood, of the *Tacoma*, Acting Second Assistant Engineer, and ordered to remain on board that vessel.
Samuel Moore, of New York, Acting Third Assistant Engineer, and ordered to the *Union*.
Robert Muir, of New York, Acting Third Assistant Engineer, and ordered to the *Zahama*.
Matthew T. Trumbour, and E. P. Sheldon, Acting Assistant Paymasters, and waiting orders.
Henry B. Goodwin, of the *Canandaigua*, Acting Second Assistant Engineer, and ordered to remain in the South Atlantic Squadron.
Frank W. Wyman, of Chelsea, Mass., Acting First Assistant Engineer, and ordered to the *Pasatec*.
Thomas E. Ashmead, of Philadelphia, Acting Ensign, and placed on waiting orders.
William Ellison, of New York, Acting Second Assistant Engineer, and ordered to the *Peoria*.
Charles Hickey, of the *Annie*, Acting Second Assistant Engineer, and ordered to remain on board that vessel.
Gilbert H. Prindle, of Washington, D. C., Acting Master's Mate, and ordered to New York, for instruction.
Theophilus Fravel, Acting Assistant Paymaster, and waiting orders.
Thomas Bullenworth, of Trenton, N. J., and ordered to the *Class*.
John McClellan Lord, Acting Third Assistant Engineer, and ordered to the *Florida*. Appointment of December 1st, 1864, is hereby cancelled.
Augustus Huggins Abernethy, of Bridgeport, Conn., and ordered to the *Dai Ching*.

CONFIRMED.

Acting Ensign Allen W. Cobb, and ordered to instruction at New York.
Acting Ensign William S. W. Cragin, and ordered to instruction at New York.
Acting Master and Pilot Levi Jump, of the North Atlantic Squadron, for special duty as such, in that Squadron.
Acting Master's Mate Gideon V. Brownell, and ordered to instruction at New York.
Acting Ensigns Franklin Young and Charles A. Gallahan, and ordered to instruction at New York.
Acting Ensign Thomas C. Kelley, and ordered to instruction at New York.
Acting Master's Mate James Moran, and ordered to instruction at New York.
Acting Ensign Leonard Denton, and ordered to instruction at New York.

RESIGNATIONS ACCEPTED.

Acting Ensign John D. Barclay, of the *Catskill*.
Acting Master's Mate Charles Seymour.
Acting Master's Mate W. F. Bonner, of the *New Era*, Mississippi Squadron.
Acting Master's Mate James Lawler, of the *Fairy*, Mississippi Squadron.
Acting Second Assistant Engineer George F. Smith, of the *Casco*.
Acting First Assistant Engineer John E. Cooper, of the *Minnesota*.
Acting Third Assistant Engineer Gilbert S. Prior, of East Boston, Mass.
Acting Master's Mate J. M. Russell, of Urbana, Ohio.

Acting Ensign George W. Garlick, of the Mississippi Squadron.
Acting Third Assistant Engineer Levi Rush, of the Naval Hospital, New York.
Acting Assistant Paymaster D. A. Dickinson, of the *Thomas Freeman*, after having transferred the public stores, accounts and money in his charge, to his successor, on his reporting.
Acting Assistant Surgeon John R. Richardson, of the *Dai Ching*, on the reporting of his relief.

APPOINTMENTS REVOKED.

Acting Master's Mate C. A. Benham, of the *Nymph*, Mississippi Squadron.
Acting Ensign Harrison B. Cleaves, at the Portsmouth Navy Yard.
Acting Ensign Frank Watson, of Baltimore, Md.

DISMISSED.

Acting Third Assistant Engineer T. B. Speakman, of the North Atlantic Squadron.
Acting Master's Mate Thomas H. Lawrence, of the North Carolina.

LIST OF DEATHS

In the Navy of the United States, which have been reported to the Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Navy Department, during the week ending January 23, 1865:

George A. Crofts, Landsman, October 5, 1864, U. S. steamer *Katahdin*.
William Garrison, Landsman, October 14, 1864, U. S. steamer *Selma*.
Edward B. Warren, First Class Fireman, November 11, 1864, U. S. steamer *A. Dinmore*.
John Brown, Ordinary Seaman, November 25, 1864, U. S. steamer *New Hampshire*.
William McLachlan, Quartermaster, December 17, 1864, U. S. steamer *Nyanza*.
Charles H. Matthews, Landsman, December 19, 1864, U. S. steamer *Onida*.
William Ballet, Prisoner of War, December 24, 1864, Naval Hospital, St. Helena, S. C.
Isaac Cornwell, Landsman, January 7, 1865, U. S. steamer *Memphis*.
Daniel Capers, Landsman, December 27, 1864, U. S. steamer *South Carolina*.
Thomas McDonnell, Seaman, December 27, 1864, Military Hospital, Hilton Head, S. C.
John Griffin, Landsman, January 19, 1865, Naval Hospital, Norfolk, Va.
William T. Mason, Coal Heaver, January 18, 1865, U. S. steamer *Calypso*.
William Dugan, Seaman, January 19, 1865, U. S. steamer *North Carolina*.
George W. Banks, Seaman, February 8, 1864, U. S. Hospital Ship *Red Rover*.
John Straw, Seaman, February 22, 1864, U. S. Hospital Ship *Red Rover*.
Harris Griffith, Seaman, April 8, 1864, U. S. Receiving Ship *Grampus*.
Emmanuel Steward, First Class Boy, April 11, 1864, Hospital Ship *Red Rover*.
Willis Winsell, Landsman, April 17, 1864, U. S. steamer *Ouachita*.
William Thorp, Seaman, May 6, 1864, U. S. steamer *Brilliant*.
Benjamin F. Bozor, Seaman, May 13, 1864, U. S. steamer *Brilliant*.
James W. Palmer, Seaman, May 15, 1864, U. S. steamer *Brilliant*.
George C. Gregory, Seaman, July 15, 1864, U. S. steamer *Silver Lake*.
John McTrain, First Class Boy, August 25, 1864, U. S. steamer *Victory*.
Samuel J. Harper, Seaman, September 2, 1864, U. S. steamer *General Lyon*.
Joseph Buckley, Seaman, September 8, 1864, U. S. steamer *Kickapoo*.
Henry P. Chase, Landsman, October 2, 1864, U. S. steamer *Forrest Rose*.
Peter Owens, Landsman, October 2, 1864, U. S. steamer *Paw Paw*.
Wilfred M. Chappell, Landsman, November 6, 1864, U. S. steamer *Marmora*.
Robert F. Sackett, Landsman, November 9, 1864, U. S. steamer *Forrest Rose*.
Herbert H. Dean, Landsman, November 21, 1864, U. S. steamer *Peri*.
George W. Dockery, Landsman, November 23, 1864, U. S. steamer *Springfield*.
John Thompson, Seaman, November 23, 1864, U. S. steamer *New Era*.
Fred Walters, Second Class Fireman, November 26, 1864, U. S. steamer *Avenge*.
Edward Allen, Landsman, November 29, 1864, U. S. steamer *Fair Play*.
Willard Brown, Seaman, December 6, 1864, U. S. seamer *Little Rebel*.
Spencer Owens, Ward-Room Steward, December 6, 1864, U. S. steamer *General Pillow*.
George Sample, Captain's Steward, December 6, 1864, U. S. steamer *Curtis*.
Sherman Meyer, Ordinary Seaman, December 18, 1864, U. S. steamer *Exchange*.
James Patchen, Landsman, December 22, 1864, U. S. steamer *Springfield*.
Lafayette Kilburn, Landsman, December 24, 1864, U. S. steamer *Ouachita*.
Robert Hohman, Landsman, December 25, 1864, U. S. steamer *Ouachita*.
James L. Abraham, Landsman, December 27, 1864, U. S. steamer *Victory*.
Frank Hawkins, Landsman, January 11, 1865, U. S. steamer *Brilliant*.
Robert Cowden, Landsman, January 1, 1865, U. S. steamer *Springfield*.
Thomas Montjoy, Seaman, January 2, 1865, U. S. steamer *Cincinnati*.
James Fuller, Landsman, January 6, 1865, U. S. steamer *Fair Play*.
Andrew A. Randall, Acting Master's Mate, January 13, 1865, U. S. Receiving Ship *Ohio*.
Thomas Ryan, Landsman, January 20, 1865, U. S. steamer *Princeton*.
Richard Rollins, Yeoman, January 3, 1865, U. S. barge *Bounty*.
Daniel Lynch, Second Class Fireman, January 7, 1865, U. S. steamer *Dale*.
Robert Wiley, Acting Ensign, January 15, 1865, U. S. steamer *Montgomery*.
William Dunne, Acting Ensign, December 28, 1864, U. S. steamer *Matthew Vassar*.
John Hellens, Landsman, January 1, 1865, Islington Lane Armory Hospital.
Patrick Grady, Coal Heaver, January 25, 1865, Naval Hospital, New York.

VARIOUS NAVAL MATTERS.

The sloop-of-war *St. Marys*, 23, and side-wheel steamer *Saranac*, 13, were at Acapulco Dec. 9th.

A LETTER from the screw steamer *Princess Royal*, 7, dated January 14th, says that four prizes have been captured by that vessel within six weeks.

The Richmond *Whig* of Jan. 27th reports their loss in the naval engagement of the previous Tuesday on the James River at five killed and fourteen wounded. It says the *Drewry* was blown up by a Yankee shell and that a torpedo boat was also lost.

Rear-Admiral Porter reports to the Navy Department the capture of the blockade-runner *Blenheim*, on the night of January 24th, in Cape Fear River. She was from Nassau and bound in, not knowing that the place had fallen into our hands. She had a valuable assorted cargo.

The United States steamer *Queen*, Acting Volunteer Lieutenant Robert Tarr, commanding, touched at Fort Monroe on Jan. 27th, from City Point. The *Queen* went to City Point to convey Vice-Admiral Farragut to that place from Annapolis, Md., and is the first American vessel of war that ever bore the flag of a vice-admiral. After leaving her dispatches the *Queen* left immediately for New York.

Information has been received at the Navy Department, by a telegram from City Point, to the effect that a torpedo boat, left by the Rebels on the James River aground just above the obstructions in the river, during their late Naval raid, has been captured by a night expedition sent out by Commodore Nichols, and is now in our possession. The boat has two good engines and two torpedoes on board.

Two new iron-clad in progress of building at Souther's yard, Boston, was discovered to be on fire at about six o'clock on Saturday morning, Jan. 28th. The fire, which is thought to have been caused by the driving of a heated bolt into some part of the woodwork, was extinguished without a general alarm. The launching of the vessel, which was to have taken place on Saturday, has been postponed for the present.

The United States steamer *Albatross* has put into Philadelphia for repairs, having lost smokestack and foretopmast, and broke condenser in a tremendous hurricane from northwest. When on her passage from Portsmouth, N. H., to Pensacola. The smokestack was torn from its fastenings and carried bodily to leeward by sheer force of the hurricane. Nothing but good seamanship and the most strenuous exertions saved the ship. She has had the honor of being called the fastest propeller in the Navy and has had hard fighting; having been lashed to Admiral Farragut's flagship when passing Port Hudson.

The Navy Department has received information from Commodore Palmer, of the West Gulf blockading squadron, stating that Acting Ensign N. A. Blume, of the steamer *Virginia*, on the night of the 28th of December, with a boat's crew of eight men, succeeded in cutting out the schooner *Belle*, loaded with cotton, while lying at anchor in Galveston harbor, half a mile from Fort Jackson, one mile from Fort Green, and not less than 400 yards from the Confederate guard schooner *Le comble*. The schooner and cargo were brought out, having run within half mile of Fort Point; and Ensign Blume is highly complimented by his commander for his gallantry.

A LETTER from Nassau, dated January 16th, states that eighteen blockade-runners were taking in cargoes of arms, ammunition, clothing and medicines for Wilmington. Eight vessels left there between the 12th and 16th to run the blockade. One vessel took four 100-pounders Armstrong guns. There were over two and half million pounds of bacon stored at Nassau awaiting a chance to be carried through the blockade. Much of this bacon is from the Northern States, sent there to run the blockade. There were also thirty thousand Enfield rifles stored in one warehouse belonging to the Rebel Government. The letter says the capture of Wilmington will put an end practically to blockade-runners, and ruin the business which has enriched the island so enormously during the past three years.

The British steamship *Charlotte*, of London, from Fort Fisher, captured by Admiral Porter's fleet, under the walls of the fort, has arrived at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, in charge of E. W. White, Acting-Master. She is an iron side wheel vessel, quite new, of about eight hundred tons burthen, is two hundred and fifty feet long, and has a general cargo, consisting of arms, ammunition, medicines, clothing, &c.; was on her second trip from Nassau to Wilmington. Her captain and passengers are on board. The prize officers are: Edward W. White, Acting Master, commanding; A. T. West, Acting Ensign; Daniel Louis, Acting Master's Mate; Walter Taylor, George C. Brown and George W. Ryans, Acting Third Assistant Engineers, and a crew of twenty-three men. The British steamship *Slag*, captured at the same time, left in company with the *Charlotte*, for Boston. She is of about the same dimensions as the *Charlotte*, and has a cargo of similar description. She is in charge of Acting Master Goodwin.

The screw steamer *Pequot*, 11, Lieutenant-Commander D. L. Braine, took an active part in the recent operations against Fort Fisher, and was handled with great coolness and judgment by her commander. While engaged in bombarding the fort a thirty-pounder Parrott rifled gun on her fore-castle burst at the trunnions, wounding three men, one of whom has since died. The *Pequot* was not once hit by the enemy. Forty men, in charge of Acting Ensigns George Lamb and Anthony Smalley, were sent ashore to participate in the assault on the Rebel stronghold. Two of the *Pequot's* men were killed and three wounded in the action, making three killed and four wounded during the whole bombardment. On the 17th inst. the *Pequot* crossed the bar and went up Cape Fear River, where, at last accounts, she was busily engaged with others of the fleet in removing torpedoes, buoying the channel, and making other preparations to ascend the river.

The combined military and Naval operations on the Tennessee River continue, and the greater part of the Upper Mississippi fleet is occupied in conveying transports from Paducah to Eastport. At one time, they assisted in the crossing of troops and trains, and it is said that the iron-clad turtle *Neesho* went steaming up the river with a deck load of Army wagons. A novel sight! Admiral Lee has his flag on the steam tender *Fairy*, and has not been absent an hour since the campaign began. He and General Thomas work in concert. At the Naval Station at Mound City, an immense flag staff has been raised on the famous mound in the Yard. The "raising" was quite an event. The *Cincinnati* is hors du combat from contagious infection, and in the quarantine on the Kentucky side of the river. The *Osage* and *Paris Bird* are still under repair. Three purchased steamers—*Fannie*, *Mist* and *Ohio Valley*—are being converted into gunboats at the Yard. The hospital steamer *Red Rover*, Fleet Surgeon Pinkney, went to Memphis on the 20th. Commanders Bryant and Dove have reported for duty. Paymaster W. B. Boggs is settling accounts in St. Louis.

A LETTER to this journal, dated on board the United States steamer *Anacostia*, Rappahannock River, January 12th, 1865, says:—"We captured, a few days ago, two torpedoes with 60 pounds of powder, which we were informed was concealed in a house ashore here. Acting-Ensign James Softly went ashore with an armed boat's crew and after searching the house in question discovered the powder kegs stowed in a bag wrapped up in some old cloths. The torpedoes were found in the woods in the neighborhood. Undoubtedly these favors were intended for some of us. We have received information of the intended descent of a party of Rebels on the *Anacostia* some dark night, with the intention of repeating the *Reliance* and *Satellite* affair. The party is led by a Fitz-bugh Maxwell, a colonel, I believe, in the Army. He, it was, who burned a large vessel loaded with grain about two years ago, off this river. He is said to have 35 men in his party. The *Anacostia* is ready to receive him, and, as we know of his coming—and have made preparations accordingly—he will be entitled to considerable credit if he proves successful. I think, however, that if Mr. Maxwell knows when he's well off, he will stay at his home and enjoy his blessings during the short 30 days, for which it is said, he has a furlough."

At a meeting of the officers of the 6th regiment New York Heavy Artillery, held at Camp Defences of Bermuda Hundred, Va., on Monday evening January 16, 1865, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, Brevet Brigadier-General J. HOWARD KITCHING, Colonel of the 6th regiment New York Artillery, died on the 10th day of January, of wounds received in the engagement at Cedar Creek, Va., on the 19th day of October, 1864, therefore

Resolved, That recognizing the act of our Heavenly Father in thus removing from us our commanding officer, we bow submissively to his inscrutable will.

Resolved, That the character of General KITCHING as an officer and a gentleman was such as commanded our highest respect and esteem. His qualities as a soldier and a leader, whether displayed in the quiet of camp or in the storm of battle, always secured the earnest confidence of all. We feel that no one can supply his place with us. He died for his country; but his memory will ever live in our hearts as that of a good man, a true soldier, and a gallant officer.

Resolved, That to the bereaved family of our deceased commander we tender our sincere sympathy and our earnest prayer that the God of the widow and the fatherless may protect and comfort them.

Resolved, That, as a further mark of respect, the officers of the regiment wear the customary badge of mourning for thirty days.

Resolved, That these resolutions be published in the New York Herald, Times, Tribune, ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL, and Yonkers Statesman, also that a copy be engrossed and transmitted to the family of the deceased.

* [Geo. C. KIBBE, Major 6th N. Y. A.,
President.
JACOB BOWERS, Lieutenant 6th N. Y. H. A.,
Secretary.

ANECDOTE OF FARRAGUT.

JUDGE COWLES, in an address before the New York Chamber of Commerce in December, related the following anecdote of the Admiral:

Just previous to the fall of Norfolk, Admiral FARRAGUT, himself of Southern birth, as was also his true and noble wife, was invited by the emissaries of the insurgent chiefs to join his fortunes to their cause. He promptly declined. The effort to change his purpose was repeated. He was urged by every consideration that it was supposed could influence his pride or ambition, by the ties of consanguinity and place of birth, to side with his native South, and still refused. The Rebel chiefs well knew the man. They knew him better than his own Government then did, and they knew the lion-like qualities that slumbered beneath his modest and habitual retiring demeanor, and the achievements of which he was capable when the latent powers of the man should be roused to active energy. As a last effort to win him over to their cause they offered him any position which he should be pleased to name.

Admiral FARRAGUT is a man of sincere but unobtrusive piety—a piety as modest and unostentatious as is his own habitual deportment; but this assault upon his loyal virtue was more than his nature could endure, and, with a sudden and sailor-like burst of indignation, he replied, as he pointed to the emblem of the republic, which floated near him: "Gentlemen, your efforts are useless. I tell you I would see every man of you d—d before I would raise my arm against that flag."

Norfolk soon fell, and FARRAGUT was warned that the South was no place for him. A few hours only were allowed him for escape with his family, leaving, as he was compelled to do, all his property behind, which was immediately absorbed by the relentless confiscation of the foe.

He reached the house of a friend, northward of the Potomac, exclaiming, as he did so, "Here I am, without a farthing or a place where I can lay my head!"

In this way came FARRAGUT to us of the North, to the Government to which he gave his allegiance, to the flag he has for the last three years upheld in so many fierce conflicts with armed treason.

THE French Commission which has just reported in favor of repealing the French navigation laws had to deal with five questions—the ship, the crew, marine regulations, custom-house legislation, and the coasting trade. Contrary to usual practice, this Commission received evidence after the manner of a Congressional committee, and all the ports of France were represented by delegates. As

regards the "ship," it was shown before the Commission that French ships cost more than any others—either more money being actually paid for them, or in consequence of the inferiority of their construction, all the iron work of a ship being subject to a heavy duty. The average existence of first-class vessels in France is twelve years, whilst those of England last from eighteen to twenty years. The maritime inscription also bore heavily on the ship; the shipwrights, on account of their trade, were always liable to be transported from one place to another, wherever the State required them, and to be kept away from their families. The number of shipwrights thus became very limited, and when working in private yards they asked exorbitant wages. During the Crimean war the government had to get foreign shipwrights. Since the Commission opened its inquiries the shipwrights have been struck off the inscription list. It was stated that, in order to keep up the French marine, it was necessary to build 80,000 tons a year, and it was looked upon as a hardship that Frenchmen might not buy foreign ships and nationalize them. It was shown to the Commission that, whilst France employs one man to twelve tons, America has one to twenty-five, the Baltic one to nineteen, and England and Holland one man to fifteen tons. French ships are forced to carry a certain number of men, and it would take a long list to enumerate all the vexatious laws to which owners have long been subjected. The captain must pass an examination where theory is required rather than practice, he had to serve three years on board a man-of-war learning artillery practice, and when at last he received his diploma, he might remain for months without employment.

THE Savannah Republican of January 23d says: "The most delightful piece of local information we can furnish our readers with this morning is the news of the opening of the Main Ship Channel. Captain BENNETT, agent of the new board of underwriters, has been laboring incessantly and assiduously with a small gang of divers and a limited supply of submarine apparatus, endeavoring to clear the channel for navigation, and to his indomitable energy and Yankee perseverance we are at last indebted for the removal of the obstructions. The Rebels expended a great deal of labor and time in erecting these obstructions, which were of the strongest kind, and exceedingly difficult to remove. Huge pens, formed of piles driven into the bed of the river, and interlaced with the heaviest kind of iron chains, were filled with paving stones and rocks of all kinds, the whole cemented with vast quantities of clay. The wreck of the Rebel gunboat Georgia, built from the contributions of Georgia ladies, is still in the river opposite Fort Jackson." The Republican also says that the remains of the ram launched a few weeks before the capture of the city, and which was burnt and scuttled to prevent her falling into our hands, still lie at the wharf. Besides these, the wreck of the dry dock, two brigs, a schooner, and one or two small boats, with a few pilot boats, still blockade some portions of the river. Captain BENNETT is anxiously awaiting the arrival from the North of suitable machinery, heavy derricks, chains, and other material requisite for the removal of these obstructions; and as soon as they reach there, the Savannah River will once more be free for rapid navigation. The day before, the steamships Oriental and Ajax—the former drawing fourteen feet and the latter fifteen feet—passed through the obstructions without the slightest difficulty, landing below the bluff safe and sound. A passage of one hundred feet has now been cleared, and steamers of the heaviest draft, which have been obliged to enter Warsaw Sound, and thence pass up the Warsaw River to Thunderbolt, and through St. Augustine Creek, will now be able to obviate all this circumlocution, and come directly to the city.

NAPOLEON'S JULIUS CESAR. — M. HENRI PLON is busily engaged at the imperial printing office, superintending the printing of the forthcoming "Life of CESAR." A magnificent edition of one thousand copies has been ordered to be got up for the purpose of presentation to crowned heads, foreign ambassadors, and literary or political celebrities. A popular edition, however, will appear about the middle of February. The Emperor, it is stated, has ordered the work to be translated into English, and has undertaken to revise the proofs himself. There is a good deal of speculation in English literary circles as to the probable translator of the French Emperor's *Vie de Cesar*. It is said that several eminent authors have gone from London to Paris to apply for the permission, but that up to the present moment no appointment has been made. The day of publication for the first volume is fixed for the 10th of next month, and as it is the Emperor's wish that it should appear simultaneously in French, German and English, there is not very much time left for the task. M. FROENKE, Conservateur of the Library at the Louvre, has done the German translation. Volume one will be devoted to the geographic and archaeological description of CESAR's campaign in Gaul.

The English publishers appointed by authority, state that the first volume of the Emperor's work will be ready for issue by the end of February next.

THE AMENITIES OF THE PICKET LINE.—The following is a copy of a letter thrown over to our men on picket at the front:

"GENTLEMEN:—There is one thing you have got and I want; that is, a Masonic breastpin. You will know me by having a red ribbon tied to my gun. I have not got any tobacco with me, but I will be on picket to-morrow night and will have some. You must think hard of us not answering when you speak. Our officers are very strict on us. I wish the privates on both sides would come to some conclusion and stop this war. I think we could make peace right off. Don't gather around those front holes in squads. The officers order us to fire, but we don't. All the shooting done in the daytime is done by them. If you throw anything over, be sure and hrow it as far as you can."

It having been officially reported by his regimental, brigade, and division commanders, that in the action at Honey Hill, S. C., Nov. 30th, 1864, First Lieutenant Edward H. Lomas, Co. B, Fifty-sixth N. Y. Vols., being the only officer with his company, and while the regiment was engaged with the enemy did absent himself from his company without permission, and did remain absent until December 24, 1864, he has been dishonorably dismissed the service of the United States, by Major-General Foster, subject to the approval of his Excellency the President.

[Special Notice.]

AMERICA IN ENGLAND.

NEXT Thursday evening, in the Croton Hall, 187 Bowery, W. W. BROOM will deliver a Lecture on "The History of the Formation of Opinion in England on the American Struggle." Mr. BROOM was the first advocate of the Union cause in England, and he is known already in this city as an able speaker. The lecture will commence at 8 o'clock.

[Advertisement.]

Do not waste your money buying any of the numerous worthless articles called GOLD PENS which have flooded the market for the last few years; when at lower prices you can get pens which are acknowledged to be the BEST IN THE WORLD. See in another column: "The Pen is Mightier than the Sword."

DIED.

ADDISON.—In Washington, D. C., January 23, Mrs. ANNA, relict of Captain William H. Addison, U. S. A.
GARDNER.—In Brooklyn, January 21, ALONZO M. GARDNER, late Paymaster's Clerk U. S. steamer Home, aged 25 years.

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Surgeon Basil Norris, to attend officers of the regular Army—corner of 18th and G streets.
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Major Rochester—Discharge Office of all officers—corner F and 18th streets.

Major Potter—Discharge office of regulars, corner F and 18th streets.

Major Taylor—Discharge Office of volunteer soldiers, corner 13th street and New York avenue.

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Ordnance Department.
Brigadier-General A. B. Dyer, Chief—Office, Winder's Building, corner F and 17th streets.

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Major General C. C. Augur, Commanding Department—Headquarters, cor. 18th street and Pennsylvania Av.

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Defenses of Washington.
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Miscellaneous.
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Brigadier-General Henry W. Wessels, Commissary-General of Prisoners.
148 F street, corner of 20th street.

Brevet Brigadier General D. C. McCallum, Superintendent of Military Railroads—250 G street, near 17th street.

Brigadier General A. F. Howe, Chief of Artillery—corner 19th and H streets.

Cavalry Bureau—Office, 302 H street, under command of Major-General Halleck, Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-Colonel Ekin, in charge of purchase and inspection of horses, and quartermaster duties—Office, 574 H street.

Captain Henry Keteltas, Commissary of Mustering—corner 19th and G streets.

Brevet Colonel G. W. Foster, Assistant Adjutant-General, Chief of Colored Bureau—331 17th street, opposite War Department.

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